

THE LIST ISSUE



YOUR ALL-ACCESS PASS TO THE SUPERSTARS



★ **WWE EXCLUSIVE!**

DANIEL BRYAN

SUBMIT TO THE GOAT!

*GREATEST OF ALL TIME

DOLPH ZIGGLER

Your Questions,
His Answers! **P.42**

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MOST PAINFUL TAP-OUTS!

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OCTOBER 2013

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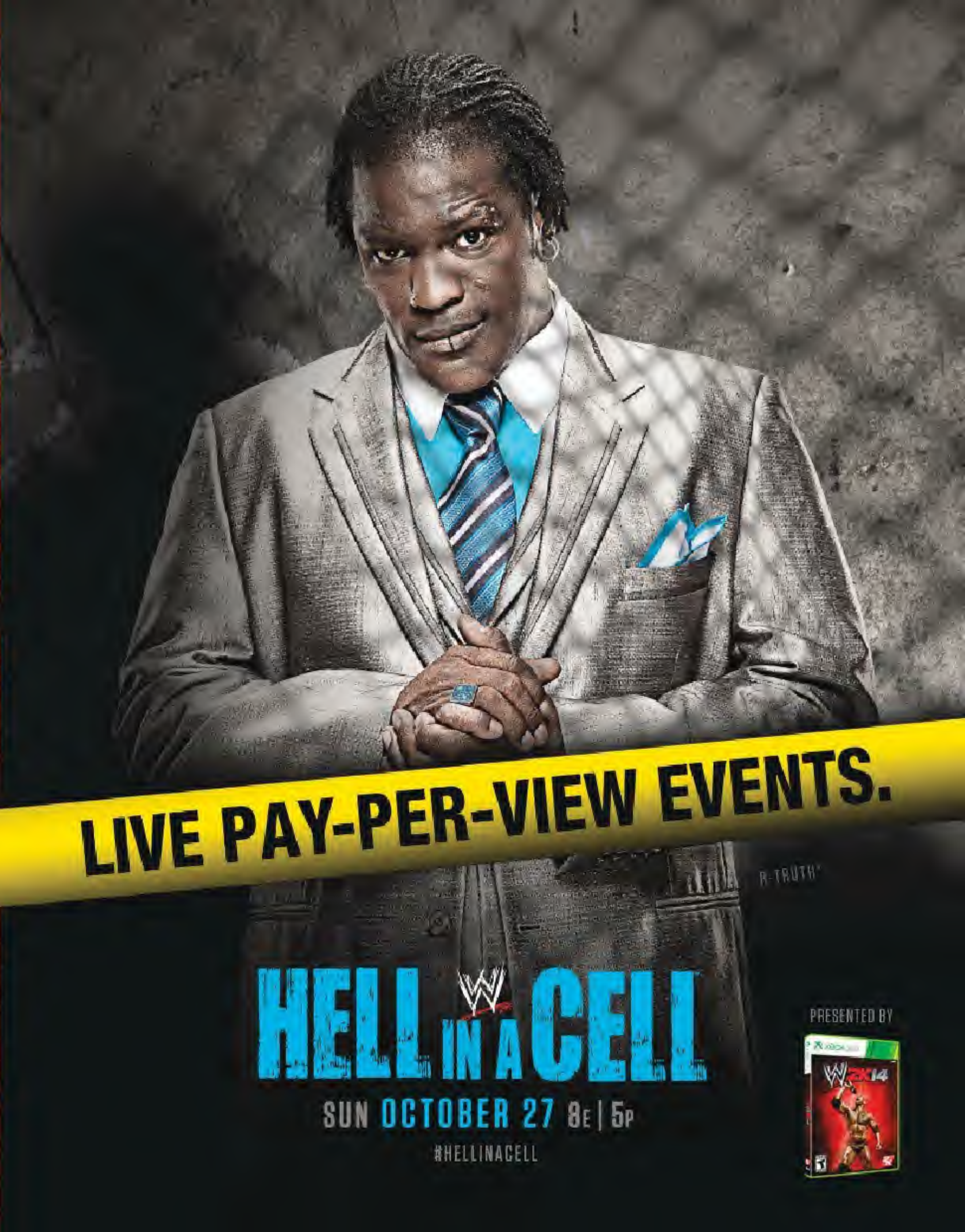
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WWE HELL IN A CELL

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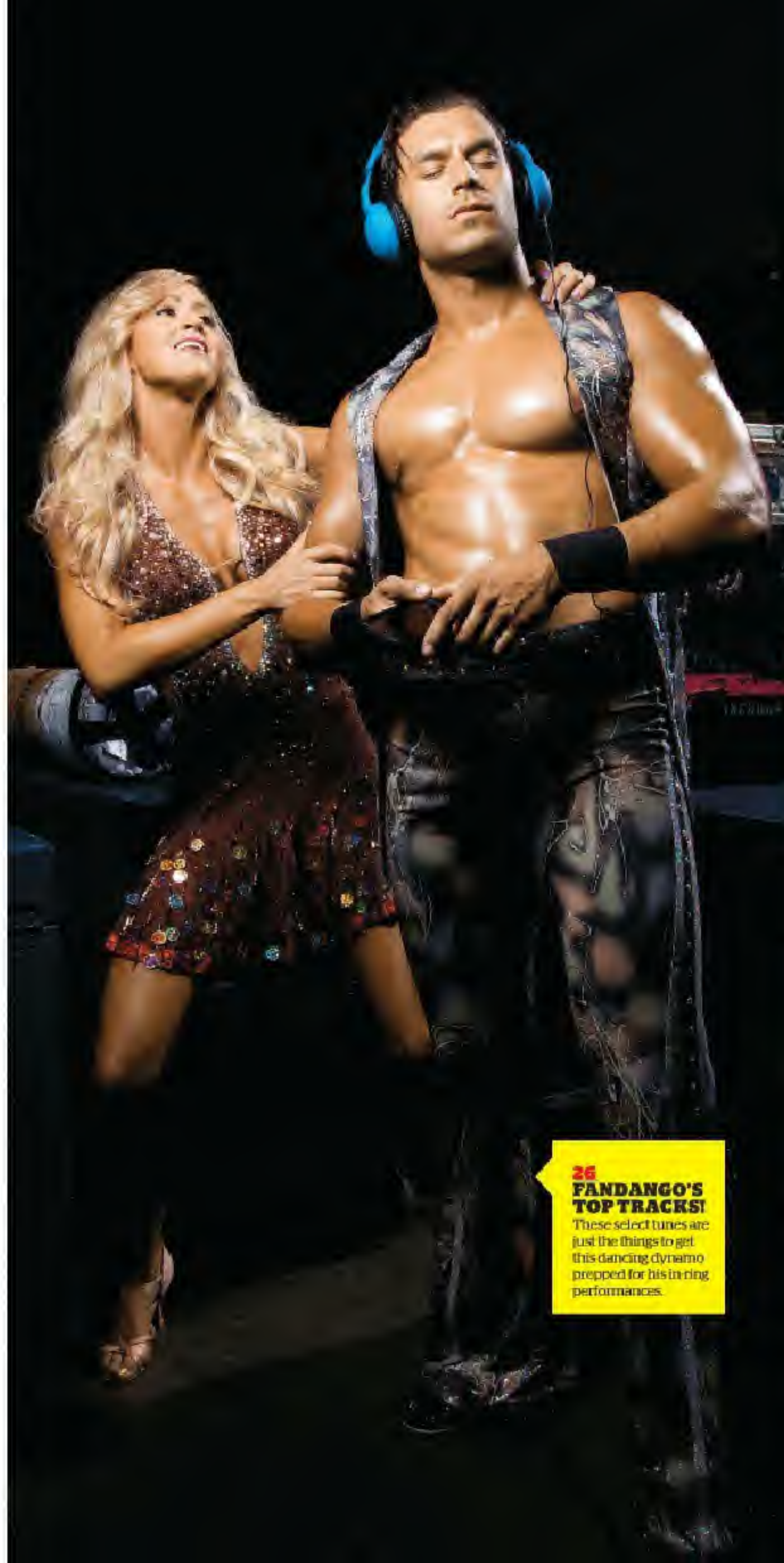
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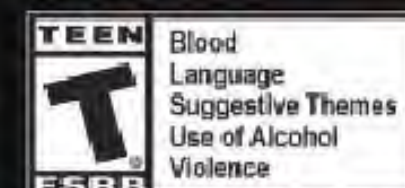
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Maybe you'll jump from helicopters.

Or fly them. You can work in law enforcement, drive a tank, build a bridge, or fire artillery. There are over 200 careers to choose from. Surely there's one to get your blood flowing. And no matter what you choose, you'll serve your community as well as your country—part-time. You'll do cool things in the Guard.



NATIONAL GUARD 
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3, 2, 1 ...

IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!

Welcome to our first-ever "List Issue." If it can be ranked, ordered or talked up, you'll find it in here!



KOFI KINGSTON

TOP 5 COMIC-BOOK CHARACTERS HE'D LOVE TO TAKE ON IN THE RING

1

"Spider-Man—it would be a mirror match in both trash-talking and athletics!"

2

"Wolverine—a true test for me, what with his healing powers and everything."

3

"King Pin—never liked him as a character!"

4

"Batman—he's a human with no powers, but he's still able to defeat those with them. I'd love an opponent like that."

5

"Nightcrawler—honestly, I just want to see him teleport."



If there's one thing we like doing here at WWE Magazine, it's making lists. So, we thought, why not dedicate an entire issue to this editorial pastime of ours? So we did (we have that power!). Scattered throughout nearly every page of this month's publication is a near-untiring array of lists (just like this one from The Wildcat, Kofi Kingston, see left). We've also boldly named the 75 Greatest Matches of the 21st Century (can't wait to read your emails and Tweets about that one); plus, we've decided to re-rank our list of the Worst Villains in WWE History (No. 1 is sure to shock you all!). But at the top of our list of things we're most psyched about in this issue is none other than Daniel Bryan appearing on his first solo cover of WWE Magazine. Our top three words to describe it in descending order would be: 3.) Yes! 2.) Yes! 1.) Yes! And, if there's a list you think we missed that you'd like to see in these pages, hit us up on Twitter: @WWEMagazine



ON THE COVER



DANIEL BRYAN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY Marius Bugge

DIGITAL IMAGING BY Eric Helitz

BONUS

Are the Wyatt's WWE's scarier family?

PAGE 24



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Dr. Kristi Eglund knows breast cancer. She had been researching it for years when she was diagnosed with breast cancer herself. Suddenly, she went from researcher to patient. Her personal experience inspired her to focus on innovative new treatments. Today, through a grant from Susan G. Komen®, Kristi studies ways to detect signs of breast cancer through a blood test, which could one day make early detection accessible for more women.

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BRAWL

YOUR BARE-KNUCKLE GUIDE TO THE WORLD OF WRESTLING



3 MB

TOP 5 OPENING ACTS THEY'D TAKE ON TOUR

1

"Guns N' Roses—a given for every serious rock band..."

2

"Metallica—our bands have so much in common."

3

"Fozzy—we have to say this, right?"

4

"AC/DC—again, a must for those about to rock."

5

"Brian McKnight/Ginuwine—don't make us choose between them."

RAW FOOTAGE

THE SHIELD JUMPS MARK HENRY

JULY 15, 2013
BROOKLYN, NY

Few Superstars haven't felt the bite of The Shield, and the night after *Money In The Bank*, the trio succeeded in adding yet another victim to their list. Mark Henry had planned on making his case for John Cena to give him a WWE Championship rematch at *SummerSlam*, but the crew first surrounded The World's Strongest Man then floored him with a Triple Power bomb. It was a powerful message to the locker room: No one—not even a 412-pound strongman—is safe.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY DAVID GUNN

RAW

FRIDAY NIGHT FIGHT

CM PUNK VS. FANDANGO SMACKDOWN

AUGUST 2, 2013
HOUSTON, TX

Fandango caused a stir when he interrupted CM Punk's message to Paul Heyman on the 7/26/13 *SmackDown*, and not simply because of his leopard-print pants. So Punk responded the following week by kicking his frustrations out on the toe-tapping Superstar. But Fandango nearly pulled off the upset—until he went to the top rope, where Punk caught him with a superplex and locked in the Anaconda Vise for a hard-fought win. Don't knock Fandango's hubris—just his timing.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICH FREEDA



TITUS O'NEIL

5 REASONS WHY
WWE IS TOUGHER
THAN FOOTBALL

1

"Travel—no home turf for us."

2

"Time away from loved ones—what's an off-season?"

3

"Physicality—nothing is more physically taxing than WWE."

4

"Mental—there's so much you're thinking about all at once."

5

"Crowd—you never know what you're going to get. At least we knew we would get cheered at home."

CLASSIC MOMENT

THE 1-2-3 KID vs. MARTY JANNETTY

RAW

OCTOBER 25, 1993
NEW YORK, NY

Marty Jannetty and The 1-2-3 Kid created plenty of classic matches with their innovative styles during *Monday Night Raw's* first year. Case in point: This high-flying October bout, which even interference by Johnny Polo couldn't blemish. When he stuck his nose in their business, these two opponents joined forces to shut up the meddling manager. Then, three months after this photo was taken, the duo showed Polo what they were capable of by besting his Quebecers for the World Tag Team Championship.



CODY RHODES

**TOP 5
DUSTY RHODES
MOMENTS**

1
"His Heavyweight Championship win. This moment always makes me proud."

2
"When he was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame."

3
"His ECW return. It was a big deal, not only for everyone watching, but for him."

4
"The Bullrope Match between him and Steve Corino."

5
"Him, Goldust and me in the Six-Man Tag Match. We were all in the ring together."

2,474

Number of stars adorning the Hollywood Walk of Fame (as of press time). Among the names engraved on terrazzo and brass are Mr. McMahon's and WWE Hall of Famers Donald Trump and Drew Carey.

3,289

Time, in days, between Triple H's proud raising of Randy Orton's hand after he cashed in his MITB contract, and the moment he gave The Viper a thumbs-down following his first World Championship win, after 2004's *SummerSlam*.

75

Miles of beaches that run along the Los Angeles County coastline. Those 75 miles stretch from LA towns Malibu to Long Beach. The Santa Monica Beach is the closest one to the STAPLES Center—only about 15 miles, or 30 minutes in LA traffic, away. With the last five installments of *SummerSlam* calling the STAPLES Center home, it's been a half-decade of bashes at the beach.

28

Percentage of Superstars to win title gold inside the STAPLES Center. Challengers walked away with the prized title, ranging from the Hardcore to the European to the WWE Championship, only 21 times in the Los Angeles arena's existence.

1875

Year an Italian textile mill owner first thought of using tiny scraps of colorful paper to throw at parade floats during Carnevale in Milan. In the past, citizens would throw rice or grains to celebrate, but the invention of confetti quickly became a popular tradition.

BY THE NUMBERS

RANDY ORTON VS. DANIEL BRYAN SUMMERSLAM

AUGUST 18, 2013
LOS ANGELES, CA

Daniel Bryan's years of hard work and listening to critics call him "too small" finally paid off when he decked John Cena with a running knee to win his first WWE Championship. As Bryan held the title for the first time—and held back tears—Special Guest Ref Triple H patted him on the back, seemingly in approval. But the celebration came to an abrupt end when WWE's COO Pedigreed the new titleholder, allowing Randy Orton to cash in his MITB Contract for the easy win. Goes to show you: Don't trust The Game—because you might get played.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JOHN GIAMUNDO





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Superstars Who've Gone Through Hell

For this year's *Hell In A Cell*, *WWE Magazine* celebrates these Superstars who've experienced hell in all its shapes and forms. Turns out a brief spell in the Cell isn't the only way to endure torture in WWE.



5. GOTO HELL

At *SummerSlam 2008*, Edge became the first Superstar to be sent to the fiery depths during a match. Following their Cell bout, The Deadman delivered a Chokeslam so intense that it tripped open the ring (and presumably the Earth). To cap it off, he set fire to the hole, flambéing Edge.

4. THROUGH HELL OR HIGH WATER

After a decade wrestling in the Indies, Bryan was finally brought in by WWE only to be released, almost immediately. But he worked his way back and now he's in *SummerSlam*'s main event. Yes! Yes! Yes!



3. A LIVING HELL

Poor Kaitlyn. Not only was her heart broken after the cruel "Catfish-like" attack from Big E Langston and AJ Lee, she was also dropped (literally) and humiliated in the middle of the ring. On top of that, she lost her Divas Title. Here's hoping the girl gets her groove back soon, or at least, sets fire to Big E's car.



2. GIVE 'EM HELL

There have been only four "Three Stages Of Hell" Matches in WWE history, and 13-time World Champion Triple H has taken part in three of them, winning two. The Cerebral Assassin and future WWE Hall of Famer has made the stiphls and shown undeniable dominance in it.

WORKPLACE HELL

Before last year's *Hell In A Cell*, we built a replica Cell around an unsuspecting editor's desk. This year, we hope you'll keep the tradition alive. Here's how to do it.

WHAT YOU NEED

- 2-3 chain-link panels (the kind used for backyard and dog fences)
- 1 chain-link panel with a door
- 1 roll of chain-link
- 3 planks of wood
- 1 chain
- 1 padlock
- aluminum foil

1. Measure the dimensions of the Cell in relation to the desk. Your goal should be to cage up as little space as possible, while still allowing for movement, so that your target can back his chair up into the metal fortress, keeping him docile.

2. Begin constructing by placing the pre-assembled panels end-to-end behind your co-worker's chair. Zip tie them together so that the angles and the desk itself keep them standing, and the door opens out into the office.

3. Zip tie the roll of chain-link to the top panels and roll it out to create the ceiling. If you need extra support, brace the chain-link with the planks. Add more and more zip ties until the structure is secure. Then lock him in and enjoy!



"THE FREAKS COME OUT AT NIGHT!"
—EDGE

6. LIKE A BAT OUT OF HELL

Apparently WWE HQ is located on a hellmouth, because how else can you explain the vampire trio, The Brood? These three proved they were no extras from the set of *Buffy*, by bathing foes in plasma and being as badass as their entrance music.



7. HELL HATH NO FURY

Many of us have women troubles, but nobody seems to have as many as Zack Ryder. The ladies haven't been kind to Zack. Especially Eve, who betrayed the Internet Champion in front of 80,000 people at *Maria XXVIII* when she kicked him in the groin.

8. HELL TO PAY

After losing his savings in the 2008 financial crisis, Shawn Michaels took a job with JBL as his assistant, tasked with securing JBL the World Heavyweight Title. But HBK gave himself his own bailout and broke ties with the tycoon in an "All of Nothing" Match that restored his wealth.

9. HELL ON EARTH

This wouldn't be complete without a Superstar who was literally "from hell." And no, we're not talking about the Johnny Depp flick about Jack the Ripper. We mean Kane, who controls fire with his mind in between therapy sessions.



BUFF THE STUFF

BUFFALO—WWE'S BATTLEGROUND!

Buffalo, NY, is the home of the new pay-per-view, *WWE Battleground*, airing October 6th. The Queen City is known for more than its wings and Ralph Wilson—like these great battles in wrestling history.



Triple H & CM Punk
Night Of Champions, 9/18/11
The King of Kings was fighting not for a throne, but his corner office. This No Holds Barred bout was as hardcore as they come, and saw him prevail and keep his COO title.



Jeff Hardy & Edge & Triple H
Armageddon, 12/14/08
Hardy won his first WWE Title this night, and held it for 42 days, which is, coincidentally, the number of wings Joey Chestnut can eat by the time you finish this story.



Rey Mysterio & Eddie Guerrero
The Great American Bash, 7/24/05
Guerrero planned to reveal that he was the real father to Rey's son, Dominik, if he won. He didn't, but broke the news that week anyway.

1. NO CHANCE IN HELL

When Mr. McMahon stood in the way of Stone Cold's meteoric rise to Superstardom, he opened up an already shaken can of whoopass into his own face. There's no doubt that being on the receiving end of Stunners, taking trips to the hospital, and having cars destroyed was hell for The Chairman.



Every 30 days, *WWE Magazine* celebrates the roster's most malicious malcontents and all the evil machinations they've wrought on the WWE Universe by honoring them with our prestigious trophy. Say hello to this month's bad guys: **Jack Swagger & Zeb Colter.**

"THE REAL AMERICANS" JERK INDEX We're Willing To Overlook

Zeb's a lot more than a mouthpiece, and seldom stands idly by during Swagger's matches. We don't mind him getting involved, though, because it means more camera time for his *Duck Dynasty* moustache.

Kind Of Jerkish

Attacking Ricardo Rodriguez was low, even for these guys. Whatever their beef with Alberto Del Rio is, it shouldn't be with his manservant. We like our Ricardo best when he's rolling his "Re"—not having his ankle rolled in the Patriot Lock.

Major League Jerks

The fiery, antagonistic rhetoric coming out of the mouths of this pair is the equivalent of yelling "F!ck!" in the middle of a crowded wrestling ring. Free speech comes with a price—or the receiving end of an opponent's boot.

Total and Complete Jerks

Adding Antonio Cesaro to the stable was a phony attempt to sidestep the criticisms of their bigotry. Why is it OK for a Swiss immigrant like Cesaro to be in the country and not Del Rio, guys? The only thing we hate more than jerks are hypocrites! And you two are both!

Zeb Colter: "I think the people are afraid of the truth—the truth is hard to face. But why is it OK for them to say things about us and yet it's not OK for Jack and myself to speak our minds? If you look through history, when people get silenced, that's when everyone's rights are removed and we all become enslaved."
Jack Swagger: "We say what no one else wants to say, even though they all agree with us. I guess that makes us jerks. Down the road, when everyone finally sees the error of their ways, and when the light is finally shining on us, all of them—they'll be the jerks!"

5 SUPERSTARS LEAST LIKELY TO BE NAMED AS JERK OF THE MONTH: 1. Ricky Steamboat 2. Kofi Kingston 3. Sin Cara 4. John Cena 5. Rey Mysterio

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WWE's Wild Cards

There's nothing odd about the wild cards in the world of sports today. Players are getting duller by the moment. But in WWE, these Superstars are unpredictable, crazy and downright weird.



Dean Ambrose

Being in The Shield means that the screws are already loose, but Ambrose is next-level. The U.S. Champion talks to himself in the ring, and follows no one on Twitter! Who DOES that?

Fandango

For haters and followers alike, Fandango is a modern-day troll who's just baiting the crowd with whatever odd and silly antics he comes up with in that two-stepping brain of his.

Brian Pillman

When he wasn't wrestling, he attacked announcers—and that's if he wasn't being dragged out of arenas by guards. He also drew a pistol on Stone Cold. Straight up, cray!

AJ Lee

Simply put, AJ's off her rocker. Her stint as Raw GM can be described as nothing short of chaotic, and she's left a trail of brokenhearted men in her wake since day one.

Goldust

A combination of outrageous in-ring attire, gender-bending antics and overall weirdness, made him the wildest of wild cards throughout his career. Even his music was odd.

Randy Orton

The Apex Predator is defined by unpredictability. Whether it's punting his rivals in the head or ambushing champions backstage, Orton has never failed to surprise.



DARK HORSES

CARD SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Like a team squeaking into the playoffs on the last day of the season, these five wild cards stepped in at the last minute and made a huge impact.

OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS

After losing the WWE Title in the first Chamberbort at 2009's *No Way Out*, Edge stole Kofi Kingston's spot in the WHC Match, won, and became both the first man out and last man standing in the same night.

JERICHO'S LUCKY BREAK

At 2008's *Unforgotten*, CM Punk forfeited his World Title prior to the night's Scramble Match. Chris Jericho took the spot, and the gold. He's the best in the world at being in the right place at the right time.

HARDCORE BETRAYAL

Cody Rhodes was Ted DiBiase's mystery partner at 2008's *Night Of Champions*—which would've been fine, except he was supposed to be Hardcore Holly! They attacked the vet, and The Legacy was born.

THE CHAMP IS HERE!

After tearing his pectoral muscle the previous October, Cena was scheduled to be out until at least May, but shocked the WWE Universe by winning 2008's Royal Rumble Match at Madison Square Garden.

TWICE THE PAIN!

The winner of the first match at 2003's *Royal Rumble* earned the last remaining spot in the Rumble bout. Brock Lesnar beat Big Show in the opening contest en route to winning the Rumble as the 29th entrant.





Family Affair

Are the **Wyatts** the most frightening WWE family ever? Possibly. Here, *WWE Mag* examines the Top 10 "scariest" families in grappling history, and how they stack up against one another. Be warned.



10 The Anoa'i Family Scary Huge

No family in WWE is bigger than this. Seriously. They must multiply like Smurfs. That means when you go up against one, you may end up going up against the rest of them. Talk about a numbers game.



9 The Heenan Family Scary Smart

The Heenans aren't bound by blood, but by Bobby Heenan's brilliant mind. He was like a wrestling version of the Battlestar Galactica "hybrid": His crew was many, and very successful.



8 The Von Erich Family Scary Popular

Back in the days of the legendary Dallas Sportatorium and World Class Championship Wrestling, the Von Erich brothers couldn't go anywhere without being swarmed by followers. That kind of crazed adoration is enough to want to avoid them. And you thought "Beliebers" were scary!

7 The Hennig Family Scary Perfect

Mr. Perfect was so good in the ring (and on the football field, and on the basketball court...) that "perfect" became more than just a nickname. Curtis Axel has demonstrated some of his father's athleticism and skill, too. And with Paul Heyman by his side, he will only get better.

6 The Guerrero Family Scary Shifty

The legendary Eddie Guerrero coined the phrase "Lie, Cheat and Steal" to win matches, and Vickie has made a name for herself by using her WWE authority to manipulate Superstars and Divas alike. And Chavo? Well, he fell in love with a hobby horse. Guess two outta three ain't bad.

5 The Rhodes Family Scary Weird

Goldust's antics definitely carry most of the weird water for the Rhodes clan, but both Dusty and Cody can bring the crazy. Re-watch Cody's descent into madness during his 2013 rivalry with Rey Mysterio or Dusty's 1985 "hard times" promo. Try and make out what The American Dream is saying. We dare you.

4 The Orton Family Scary Violent

Randy Orton is proof-positive that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, especially in WWE. He takes the same delight in hurting his opponents that his father, "Cowboy" Bob, did. It's only a matter of time, we think, before The Viper starts clubbing Superstars over the head with a plaster cast.

3 The Hart Family Scary Loyal

The Harts are WWE's version of House Stark from *Game of Thrones*'s Westeros: They're an old family with generations of wrestling history and influence behind them, who are fiercely loyal to each other. But they're also stalwart and traditional, and able to rise above the adversity they consistently face.

1 The McMahon Family Scary Rich

You don't mess with the McMahons and get away with it. These billionaires simply have unlimited means at their disposal, so there are no lengths to which they won't go to get back at you. That's because when you're in the "One Percent," you are the fly swatter, and everyone else is a fly.

THE WYATT FAMILY Scary Scary

They've only been on the scene for a little while, but their Southern-fried spookiness already has us shaking in our boots harder than any banjo riff ever could. And we want no part of the Wyatt compound, either. Follow the buzzards? No thanks, we'll make like the crow, and fly as far and as fast as possible.

Fandango's Top Tracks!



The ballroom-dancing dynamo shares 10 tunes that get his toes tapping backstage before he waltzes into a big match.

10. Snap!

"Rhythm is a Dancer"
"I play this song every time I go out for a walk with my cat."



9. Daft Punk

"Get Lucky"
"My favorite song for when I'm working out."

8. Miguel, featuring Mariah Carey

"#Beautiful"
"I just #love this #song! You #should too."

7. B. Smyth, featuring 2 Chainz

"Leggo"
"This song reminds me of a girl I once knew named Karen. That's all I'm going to say."



6. The Commodores

"Fancy Dancer"
"Duh-doy!"

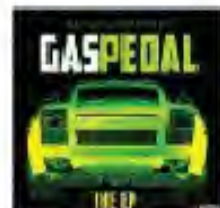


5. Enrique Iglesias

"Tonight I'm Lovin' You"
"This one relaxes me before I lay my head down for a little sleep."

4. Jonn Hart

"Who Booty"
"~J~"



3. Sage The Gemini

"Gas Pedal"
"This just has an all-around great beat."



2. Kendrick Lamar

"Don't Kill My Vibe"
"I like to listen to this track on my iPod when I'm doing yoga because I can feel the changes."

1. TLC — "NO SCRUBS"

"IF THERE'S ONE THING FANDANGO CAN'T STAND, IT'S HAVING DIRTY PEOPLE AROUND ME. I DON'T WANT ANY SCRUBS IN MY LIFE."



THE TALE OF PAUL "TRIPLE H" LEVESQUE, HIS EPIC BATTLES, AND HIS RISE TO POWER...



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DARREN YOUNG

5 MOST IMPORTANT PARTS OF HIS GROOMING ROUTINE

"Hair—only a Superstar like me can pull off an Afro."

"Shave—beware and take care of razor burn!"

"Moisturizer—smooth skin is always a good look"

"Tuck eyebrows—you're meant to have two of them."

"Cologne—who wants to smell bad?"



>BRAWL

Q+A



RELEASE THE HOUNDS!

Three *WWE Magazine* editors were given three seemingly random cell phone numbers and told to place a call at a specific time on a particular day. In this exclusive interview, each member of The Shield—Seth Rollins, Dean Ambrose and Roman Reigns—allowed 15 minutes to ask any questions pertaining to their mission to reshape and wreak havoc in WWE, and what their ultimate end game may be.

AS TOLD TO THE *WWE MAGAZINE* STAFF PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON TANAKA BLANEY

Individually, which skills do you think that you bring to The Shield?

Seth Rollins: I bring an element of speed, and a kind of kamikaze nature about myself. I'm willing to sacrifice my personal being in ways that maybe the other two aren't capable of because of their size or their backgrounds. I'm a tactician—and not in the way of technicality, but in the sense that I'm the planner. I can see things developing from far away or maybe from a distance that other people can't. I'm able to put the pieces in places they need to be to be the most successful.

Roman Reigns: People identify me as the powerhouse, or the strength of the group. That's right on. I pride myself on being a powerful athlete, but at the same time, I'm still an athlete. I'm not just some big powerlifter who can just only lift weight. I'm pretty nimble; I can adjust against any opponent. If I'm bigger and stronger than a guy, I can really put my weight on him and work him how I want and tire him down. If he's bigger than me, then I can move. I can be agile.

Dean Ambrose: I think I'm one of the better technical wrestlers in WWE, and also one of its better brawlers. I have a strict attitude, the type of attitude that takes every match and turns it into a fight. That's where we can take advantage. The most important thing is that we all bring the same thing—the attitude. The attitude is we expect to win when we go out there between the ropes. We expect to out-work and out-brawl and out-fight and out-wrestle everybody we are in the ring with. It's that "take no prisoners" mind-set we all bring—that's what makes it really gel.

How long did it take to adjust to wrestling in tactical gear? Are there advantages or disadvantages to that unique style?

Seth Rollins: It took some time to get acclimated to our gear, but I'm used to training in weighted vests, so extra weight and mobility weren't an issue. The problem is that they act almost as a sauna suit because they capture and keep the heat in. They capture the sweat, and so they become heavier as the length of the match increases.

Roman Reigns: We all just wore trunks previously, so there was a huge, huge adjustment. When we debuted, we wore turtle necks, and it just felt weird. And then, the next week, we put our own spin on the outfits and went out and got some vests. We started to look at little things that could highlight our personalities and what we'd be more comfortable in. When it comes down to it, especially with me, I sweat a good bit when I'm wrestling, but my vest and my pants—they're made of thick material. They're legit tactical gear. It's not easy, but it just goes great with what we do. It works. I wouldn't change it for the world at this point.

Dean Ambrose: The big disadvantage is that they're really hard to keep clean. It's nearly impossible. I've run through about 10 different kinds of vests trying to find the best one to wrestle in. They're not easy to move in. They have so many different tiny buck-



les and straps and things that prod at you and get loose and twist. Sometimes I get really annoyed with them, and I rip them out. On the plus side, though, it looks really cool.

What is one misconception about The Shield that keeps the WWE Universe from jumping on board and believing what you're saying?

Seth Rollins: We're sort of off-putting because we don't really involve the WWE Universe in too much of what we do. We're not so colorful, we're not so outgoing, and our agenda doesn't really have a lot to do with what the WWE Universe thinks or cares about. Often our agenda is simply to take care of what we need to take care of to help us succeed. So I think one misconception is that we're doing it just for ourselves. The reality is, we're doing what we do to make this place better for everybody.

Roman Reigns: I would say the people who don't believe—they've made a choice. It's not that they can't. They're used to how things are. They've been conditioned to like a certain thing or a certain style. But eventually that changes. It's like anything else. People get swayed by a mass of people, and slowly but surely, the believers are adding up. The Shield army is growing. And it's going to get to a point where you're either on board, or you're irrelevant.

Dean Ambrose: A major misconception would be that we have to rely on cheat tactics. There's not a numbers advantage in three-on-three contests, and

we were undefeated in three-on-three contests for months. Pretty much what we say we do, we do. I don't think we're as sneaky or as backhanded—we tell you what we're going to do, and we do it.

What's it like making your entrance through the arena crowd? The audience doesn't seem to shy away from getting in your face or slapping you on the back.

Seth Rollins: It's pretty cool—it brings a completely different energy to our match or whatever else is going on. The first words of your music hits, and the crowd all stands up and turns around. It creates a different vibe. It throws an element of danger into the whole situation that I don't think you can really get coming out under the TitanTron. The people have figured out that we can handle ourselves, so I don't think they want to put their toe in that water, they stay clear of it.

Roman Reigns: What most people don't know is, when we're going through the concourse, there's all kinds of people there—it's pretty electric. They will all gather around us. We're getting reactions before people in the rest of the arena even know we're in the house. As soon as our music hits, it's a different type of reaction. It's definitely a unique feeling, and I'm proud to say it's ours.

Dean Ambrose: Once we leave the ground level, we're just on our own. We're just going to that sort of eye-of-the-storm place. You can just relax and



you're away from everybody. Sometimes there's a lot of people on the concourses and we're going to get mobbed, but you can get annoyed by it, or sometimes it's that extra little bit of hype that gets you revved up. You can't feel the energy of the crowd any better than when you're actually in the crowd. It's a cool perspective to see the ring you're about to be in from where the viewers see it, 30 or 40 rows up, with the whole circus you're about to be part of. It's kind of a cool perspective.

The Shield's accomplishments in a very short period of time have been quite impressive. What would you say you're most proud of doing during your first year in WWE?

Seth Rollins: I never compromised who I am. In this business, there are many people who give up their personal beliefs or morals to please the masters that be, and I have never done that. I've done it my way, the way I wanted from day one. There's some sort of compromise being made, but I don't think I'm one of those guys you can look at and call a sellout or a kiss-ass or anything else like that. I'm one of those guys who did it my way the whole way, true and true.

Roman Reigns: It feels like we've been shot out of a rocket since we started. Sometimes it's hard to live in the moment and just breathe it in. I'd say that, after taking down Undertaker in London, there was an opportunity once it really settled down, and we beat him down. You could just let it soak in and feel the energy and concern of the crowd. But you can't look outside of WrestleMania. I mean, 80,000-plus people. It was unbelievable to kick off that show and tear the house down. I thought we started out 'Mania better than anyone could.

Dean Ambrose: The thing I'm probably the most proud of was just being able to deliver and being depended on to be in main events, to be in live events and to be put in there with the likes of Undertaker. Being able to come through, and rising up to the occasion pretty much says it all.



TRIPLE THREAT!

We asked each member of The Shield to list the all-time ultimate trio of opponents whom they would most like to face. Behold their trifectas.

ROMAN REIGNS
Triple H, Mr. McMahon
and Shane McMahon

“There'd be nothing more that I would love than to just kick a bunch of suits' asses—if you know what I mean. Just take out the whole top shelf. And then run the company.”

DEAN AMBROSE
Buddy Rogers, Bruno Sammartino
and Killer Kowalski

“You know we're new-school but we're old-school, too. So were these three guys.”

SETH ROLLINS
Triple H, Mr. McMahon
and Shane McMahon

“They run the show. And if you're going to kill the snake, you got to cut the head off, so why not start at the top?”

What happens if you accomplish your goal of tearing WWE apart from the inside out?

Seth Rollins: Hopefully you just continue to improve. No system is perfect. There's always going to be kinks to work out, something for us to do. Whether it be personally or exterminating the insects that pollute our universe.

Roman Reigns: You have to understand one thing about our mission: We don't want to absolutely

burn WWE down. We're breaking it. It has to be broken. People have to see what they really are. We're forcing people to look in the mirror. We're breaking them down. And then we'll rebuild a better WWE. If anything, that's justice right there. That's the ultimate goal of The Shield.

Dean Ambrose: We run the place. But I think we're pretty close to running the place now. I don't think it's too unrealistic, or too terrifying.

*** OCTOBER EDITION ***

WWE Magazine's 30th Anniversary Celebration!

This year we honor a major milestone in this tome's history. Each month, we'll be looking back at some of our favorite stories from our venerable publication's first three decades. **Happy Birthday To Us!**



1988

1990

1993

1995

1998

"The Hulkster Looks Ahead"

WWE Magazine, October 1988

In late 1988, instead of resting on his Hulkamania laurels, Hulk Hogan was looking for a challenge. Asked why he wanted to risk his spot atop the company, Hogan replied, "Because risk makes life worth living." Right on, Hulkster. Right On.



"Interview: Jerry 'The King' Lawler"

WWE Magazine, October 1993

We caught up with Jerry Lawler back in his grappling days, and The King talked about his royal palace in Memphis and his dispute with the Hart family and 'Macho Man' Randy Savage. Surprise—he didn't have kind words for either.



"Reinventing The Business"

Raw Magazine, October 1998

The tournament, Brawl for All, had it all: Superstars in boxing gloves, knockouts and Buttersnips. Learn about the journey's history and the challenge of boxing and wrestling at the same time.



2008

2005

2003

2003

"When The Animal Attacks"

WWE Magazine, October 2008

Shortly after being drafted to Raw that summer, The Animal spoke about his success. He also mentioned that he doesn't like giving autographs, so keep that in mind, Guardians of the Galaxy fans.



"Kane's Evil Unmasked"

WWE Magazine, October 2003

After revealing himself by firing a rifle through his mask last year, since his debut, and setting Jim Ross on fire, Kane opened up about his inner monster—as if anyone didn't know!—and his desire for everybody to feel the pain he felt as a scared child.



"Another Leash on Life"

Raw Magazine, October 2003

For your monthly cry, read this story, in which Lita talks about her goal to save homeless animals from being euthanized. Plus, there are plenty of cute puppy pictures! Everyone loves puppies.



HOW TOUGH ARE YOU?

TEST YOUR METTLE AND CHANGE YOUR LIFE

NATIONAL GUARD

NATIONALGUARD.com

WWE Alternate Realities

Join us as we transcend space and time to explore what might have become of WWE were we to alter certain history-making moments in wrestling history.



280
Total number of days Edge retained the first Money In The Bank contract.

WHAT IF?

FACT:

→ At *WrestleMania 21*, Edge won the first Money In The Bank Ladder Match, and his career reached epic new heights, becoming The Rated-R Superstar, and eventually cashing in for his first WWE Championship.

BUT SUPPOSE...

→ Edge was not the victor—instead, his former tag team partner and best friend, Christian, wins the match, propelling his career toward the WWE Championship.

ENTER THE NEW ALTERNATE REALITY

→ Unlike Edge, Christian immediately sets his sights on WWE Champ John Cena while taking on a new self-imposed moniker—The Ladder Master. Cena is forced to focus on JBL, and after winning a gruesome “I Quit” Match at *Judgment Day*, becomes the first MITB victim as Christian cashes in and captures the WWE Title.

→ The following night on *Raw*, Edge attacks a wounded John Cena and challenges his former tag team partner to a title match. Thanks to a betrayal from Christian's bodyguard, The Problem Solver, Tyson Tomko, Edge steals the championship gold. This starts a yearlong feud between the two former best friends with a new variable: John Cena.

→ The three Superstars exchange wins and losses throughout the year, culminating in a grueling Triple Threat TLC Match at *Survivor Series*. Christian nabs his second WWE Championship thanks to his new Problem Solver and lady friend, Lita.

→ Through their battles over the past few months, Edge and Cena develop a mutual respect, which results in a new “ESC” tag team. As for the so-called Ladder Master and WWE Champion, Christian...well, Shawn Michaels has a thing or two to say on both of those subjects.

THE CONSEQUENCES

→ The “Rated-R” persona never wreaks havoc across the WWE Universe, as Edge soon becomes a crowd favorite due to his devastating battles with Cena and Christian.

→ The infamous love triangle between Matt Hardy, Edge and Lita never sees the light of day.

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Luchador masks are slowly sneaking into sports arenas everywhere. But to date, there's no way to show pride in your alma mater and love of wrestling at the same time...until now. Peep these college football masks we had made up just in time for kickoff!



LET'S GO, BLUE!
Every Song Is His Flight Song



FEAR THE DUCK

Finishing Money over The Quack Attack



GEALIN TIGERS!
Think Tiger Mask On The Bayou



O-H-I-O!
Each Sticker Is Another Victim



HOOK 'EM HORNS!

Just in time for the release of his latest home video collection, *Thy Kingdom Come* (out Sept. 24th), **Triple H** reflects on a career in the public eye, Undertaker's home video debut, and his dramatic transition from the locker room to the boardroom.

Undertaker has previously never given home video interviews. But I asked him, and he actually agreed to it. You'll see my parents are also in it, too. And they hate being on camera.

No. Here's the thing: I have to have the thickest skin in the business. I'm a guy who busted his ass his whole life. You can ask anybody who was there at the time, I did everything. I never said no to anything, busted my ass, and worked hard to get in the position I'm in. I knew when I met my wife, when we started to have a relationship it was going to change my entire career. I knew that.

One thing about me: I don't put my family in anything. I feel like there's a line that you have to draw. It was jarring for me just seeing my parents doing the interview and talking about my career. There is a lot of personal exposure, and that exposure can be harmful. So when you open that door, you can't be upset when someone comes in. You just have to be careful how much you open the door.

I had Farrah Fawcett-hair and wore thigh-high leather boots in WCW! It's funny, I can watch what I did a year ago and cringe. You're never happy. Anyone who makes it to this level did so because they were never satisfied.

"I WASN'T THE FASTEST GUY, I WASN'T THE BIGGEST GUY, I WASN'T THE BEST PROMO GUY, I WASN'T ANY OF THOSE THINGS. ...I DIDN'T LEAVE ANY STONE UNTURNED IN GETTING BETTER IN THE BUSINESS. ...THE REALITY IS YOU EITHER MAKE IT BECAUSE YOU WORKED YOUR ASS OFF...OR YOU DIDN'T."

With hard work, you can get anywhere. I'm nothing special, from a standpoint of—and this is a clichéd line, but—I wasn't the fastest guy, I wasn't the biggest guy, I wasn't the best promo guy, I wasn't any of those things. I improved with all of that. I didn't leave any stone unturned in getting better in the business. There are easy excuses as to why you don't make it. They didn't give me the shot; I didn't get the push; this guy held me down; that

A few years ago you told us, the most competitive people you've found are wearing suits, not wearing trunks. Do you still feel that way now? Without a doubt. I had to learn how to be a businessman. At the end of the day it's all common sense. You still have to learn it. But success isn't a destination, right? That's a clichéd line but it isn't.



The three-disc set includes bouts picked by The Game himself.

WWE HITS THE GRIDIRON

Stuff this bodacious
football trivia
under your helmet.

40

Total tackles that The Shield's Roman Reigns earned as a senior Defensive Tackle at Georgia Tech.

2008

The year that Ron Simmons was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame. DAMN!



TRUTH
TRUTHS
ONELIE®

1

"More than anything
I love spending
time with my kids."

2

"I write and produce my own entrance music."

"My nickname is The Suntanned Superman!"

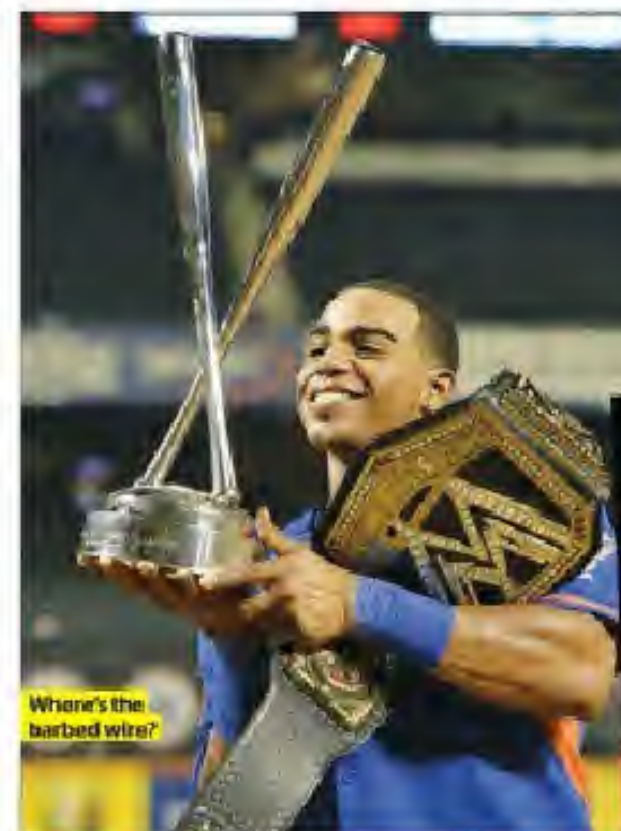
"Fish—any kind—is my absolute favorite food."

"I was born in Georgia, below the Mason-Dixon Line!"

You Got The Mic!

Where readers sound off on the good, the bad and the ugly in WWE. And we give you awesome swag for it!

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Where's the barbed wire?

MLB ♥ WWE

Dear WWE Magazine,

As a hardcore baseball fan and WWE follower, I of course love the way that WWE is quietly taking over Major League Baseball. Just look at Oakland A's slugger Yoenis Cespedes at the Home Run Derby this year. And now, the Arizona Diamondbacks have a Luchador mascot. Double awesome!

Joe T., Park City, UT



Between lucha masks at Cubs games, and All-Stars coming to the plate with WWE music, it's only a matter of time before we get the ultimate WWE/MLB crossover—a match between Abe Knuckleball Schwartz and Pete Rose at Mania XXX. Book it now!



Ask a WWE Superstar

HAVE A QUESTION FOR A SUPERSTAR? LET US KNOW!

Q: Dear Brie & Nikki Bella

I just found out my wife is pregnant with twin girls. Any advice on what I should prepare for?

MICHAEL, HOUSTON, TX

"Chaos. But there will always be someone for them to play with. So, when you need a break, just stick them both in a room with each other."



Dream Matchup

Dear WWE Magazine,

What a great look at Cody Rhodes (September)! But enough of the smoke and mirrors, are we going to see a match between him and Goldust?

Conner T., Basley, GA

Cody says people holding their breath waiting for it to happen again will be waiting a long time.

"Probably around the time he stops complaining about things on Twitter. He's in the twilight of his career, but he still can go. As for me, I'm not sure what I stand to gain from it. Either I'm getting beat by an old man, or I'm beating an old man."



EDITOR'S LETTER

Assistant Editor Jeff Laboon unearthed this old letter his mother received long ago—from The Chairman himself. She was a little concerned about young Jeff watching Ric Flair reveal some scandalous Miss Elizabeth photos, and thus, let her voice be heard. Moms can be the worst, right?



Gamer Girl!

Dear WWE Magazine,

AJ Lee is great—who doesn't love a hot chick who plays video games? If she could only play one game (with me, I hope!) what would it be?

Colin N., Blue Grass, IA

Our response? Keep your controller to yourself! But here's AJ's answer:

"I'd pick Mortal Kombat, only because that game is one I could play day-in and day-out."



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ARTISTS' CORNER

FAN ART OF THE MONTH

We're always seeking unique drawings of Superstars. If you've got the touch, send your work our way!

Email MAGAZINE@WWE.COM and we just might publish your doodles! This month, we're giving away a copy of WWE Payback on DVD. See Page 74 for more information!



• NICOLE R., via email •



• TERRELL, Laurel, MD •

KNOWLEDGE

NUTRITION

Eat Smarter!

Deciphering a food label can be a frustrating lesson in both math and spelling. But with this guide from **Damien Sandow**, you'll discover exactly what's inside and outside the box. You're welcome!

DAMIEN SANDOW'S

5 MOST INFLUENTIAL MINDS IN WWE HISTORY



"Mr. McMahon."



"Vincent K. McMahon."



"Gorilla Monsoon."



"Pat Patterson."



"Arnold Skaland."



CALORIES PER SERVING
People eat more calories than they should because they're eating more food than they should. Note serving size and adjust vitamins and nutrients accordingly.

TOTAL FAT
The average person shouldn't consume more than 56 to 78 grams of fat per day. This should be from unsaturated fats, which limit the risk of heart disease.

SODIUM
Try not to consume more than 2,000 milligrams in a day. Low sodium foods on average have fewer than 140 mg per serving, and anything beyond 400 mg is way too much.

TOTAL CARBS
Carbohydrates are a huge part of your daily diet—to the tune of 45 to 65 percent. Too much at once will spike your blood pressure, even if it's coming from "good" sources.

VITAMINS, MINERALS & FIBER
Proteins, dietary fibers, Niacin, Vitamin A, and Calcium are found on the bottom portion of the label. In these cases, the higher, the better, as long as you keep in mind serving size!

Nutrition Facts

Serving Size 1 oz. (28g/About 21 pieces)
Servings Per Container About 2

Amount Per Serving	
Calories 170	Calories from Fat 110
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 11g	17%
Saturated Fat 1.5g	8%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 250mg	10%
Total Carbohydrate 14g	5%
Dietary Fiber less than 1g	2%
Sugars 0g	
Protein 2g	0%
Vitamin A 2%	
Vitamin C 0%	
Iron 4%	
Calcium 0%	
Vitamin E 6%	
Thiamin 4%	
Riboflavin 2%	
Niacin 2%	
Vitamin B₆ 2%	

* Percent Daily Values are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Your daily values may be higher or lower depending on your calorie needs:

	Calories:	2,000	2,500
Total Fat	Less Than	65g	80g
Sat Fat	Less Than	65g	80g
Cholesterol	Less Than	65g	80g
Sodium	Less Than	65g	80g
Total Carbohydrate		65g	80g
Dietary Fiber		25g	80g

Calories per gram:
Fat 9 Carbohydrate 4 Protein 4

PERCENT OF DAILY VALUE
This is a guide to the nutrients in each serving. If it contains 30 percent protein, that means it contains 30 percent of your recommended daily intake of that nutrient.



SATURATED FAT
Your saturated fat intake shouldn't exceed 7 percent of your total daily calories, and most diets put that total around 11 grams. Just make sure to never top 16 grams!

TRANS FAT
The question isn't, "How much trans fat is OK for my diet?" It's "How can I eliminate it completely?" Some states are banning them all together. Consider yourself warned.

CHOLESTEROL
High cholesterol affects more than 50 million Americans. But just the right amount does important work for the body. Physicians recommend no more than 300 milligrams a day.

BEYOND THE LABELS

A list of quick tips to avoid being fooled by your food!

SUGAR, WHO?
What's "Polysorbate 80," you ask? Doesn't matter. If you can't pronounce it, you shouldn't eat it.

DUBIOUS CLAIMS
If a food has less than 0.5 grams of trans fat, manufacturers are allowed to tell you that it has "zero percent."

BUZZWORDS
Look for words like "raw." Food products are not allowed to claim that unless it's 100 percent true.

TOP THREE INGREDIENTS
The first three listed on the label are primarily what you're eating, the rest might as well not be there.

"REDUCED" & "LOWERED"
"25% Less Sodium," means that it's that much less than the original product, which can still be a lot.

TWWEET US



Ask Dolph Ziggler...

@HEELZiggler

The Show Off steals your Twitter questions to brag about his knowledge of Chipotle's secret menu, reveal the best part about his personality, and tell us who is the smartest man in the business.

@ If you could steal anyone's girlfriend in history, whom would you choose?
Harper T; Anaconda, MT

Easy, Blair from *The Facts of Life*. She was mean and condescending to the rest of the girls, but I'm into that, so it's cool.

@ What is the most insane thing that you've ever done for love?
Butch F; Culpeper, VA

If you recall my history, you'd know that "love" really isn't my best area. But I will admit this to you all: I grew a beard once for a girl. Actually, let me rephrase that: I tried to grow a beard. She wasn't worth it.



@ Out of all the Superstars in WWE history, whose brain would you love to dive into for a day?
Paul V; Anchorage, AK

Bobby "The Brain" Heenan. He was great at attracting attention and once he made himself a spectacle, he put the importance where it needed to be. That was one dude who really knew what he was doing.

@ Do you always watch your matches again the next day, or try to avoid that all together?
Cam H; Foster, RI

I watch as many times as I can, even if it's just clips on my phone. It's not because I enjoy it, it's because I'm constantly on the lookout for how I can do better.

@ Have you seen the "Here to show the world" meme that's all over the Web, which features you cashing in your Money In The Bank briefcase on everything?
Dan T; New York, NY

I've seen a few. It's kind of flattering to be a part of pop culture like that, but at the same time I don't really care what other people do with their spare time. I just like going out there and being better than everyone at everything.

@ What's the best way to react when someone is telling you a boring story?
Bruce W; Alma, GA

I like to be honest. If I don't want to hear your lame story anymore, even if you're mid-sentence, I'll just go "YAWN" and then walk away. I can only fake a laugh so many times during the course of the day.

@ We heard that your favorite restaurant, Chipotle, has a secret menu...do you know anything about it?
Mitch A; Salem, OR

I absolutely do and I absolutely cannot tell you anything. I'm pretty tight with Chipotle; they even follow me on Twitter. We're a close society, and it's the only thing I've ever really cared about in my life. I'm like a vault, so you'll never get it out of me.

@ What is one word that you've never been called, and one that is always true about you?
Marley E; Baton Rouge, LA

No one has ever called me snooty and no one ever will, you can take that guarantee to the bank. Acting superior is the worst personality trait that anyone can have, famous or not. What everyone does call me? Hilarious. Because it's true.



AWESOME AUSSIE ACTION!

The Superstars and Divas pump up to go down under.

The Miz @mizthetrash
15 hour flight to Australia I brought 75 hours of ACDC and 75 hours of Fosters commercials. Australia I'm ready are you?

John Cena @JohnCena
At LAX about to embark on a wonderful tour of Australia and China! Look forward to seeing @WWEUniverse on the other side of the planet!!

Zack Ryder @ZackRyder
This 16 hour flight to Australia is not going to be #SSSIICCKKK!

Antonio Cesaro @AntonioCesaro
I'm coming to a land down under, You better run, you better take cover. #WWE Melbourne

Curtis Axel @RealCurtisAxel
On board. Headed to Australia to defend my PRESTIGIOUS title! After all...I am the @WWE INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION!

Natalya @NatyNatalya
Ready to fly out to Australia and I'm bringing @GreatKhalIsays!



DOLPH ZIGGLER

5 BIGGEST TURN-OFFS

1

"Lazy texting—It's not cool, and I'm not impressed."

2

"Too much makeup—I don't like wearing lipstick."

3

"Uninformed—read the news, ladies."

4

"Idle grammar—ain't nobody got time for that."

5

"Uses an electric toothbrush—it's a dealbreaker, seriously."



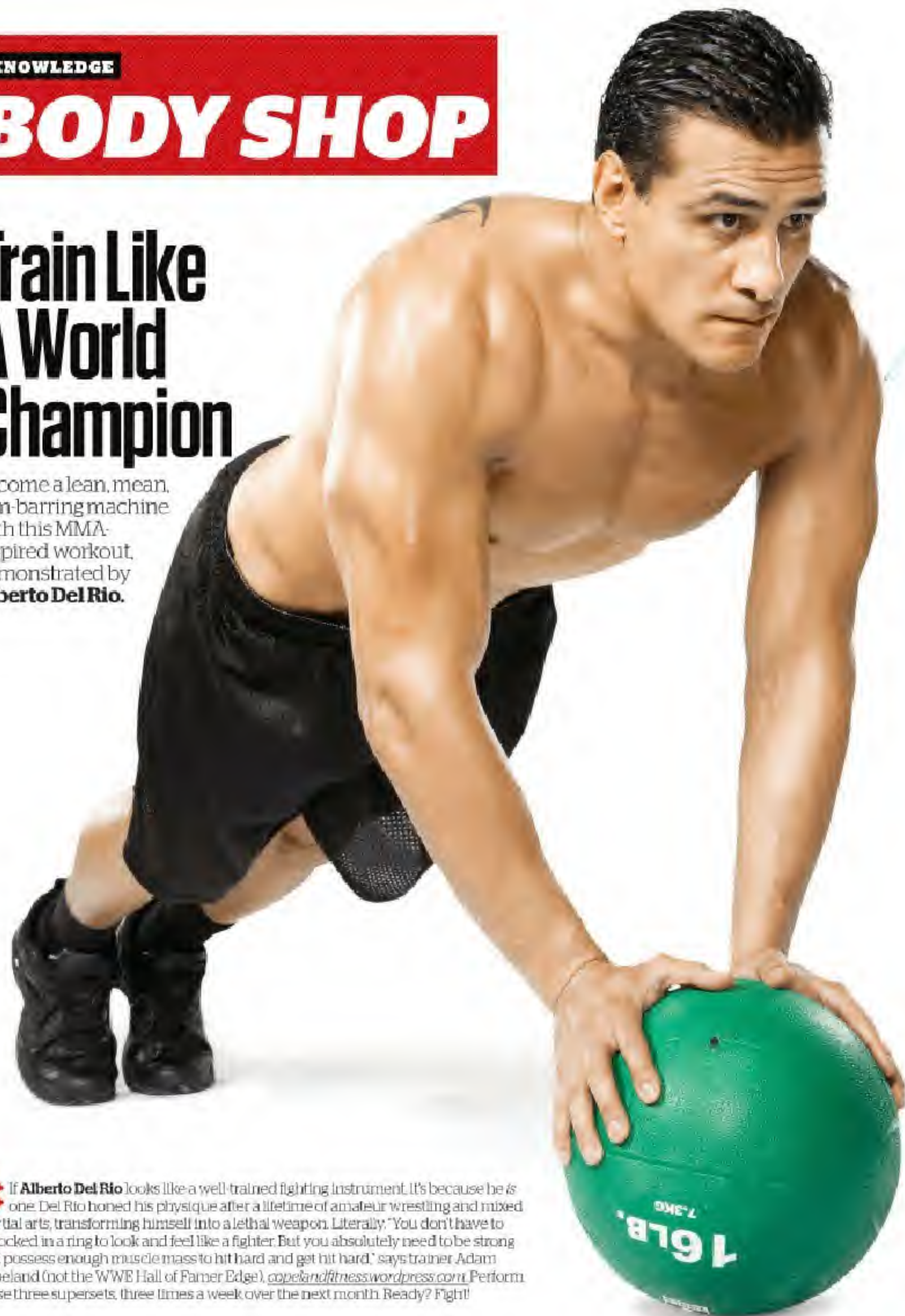
GOT A BURNING QUESTION?

In the coming months we'll be soliciting Twitter questions for Zack Ryder, R-Truth and Kofi Kingston. Fire off your best queries on any subject to: @WWE Magazine. Who knows, if your questions are interesting enough, one of them just might make it into *WWE Magazine*. And you thought the Web was just for stealing music.

BODY SHOP

Train Like A World Champion

Become a lean, mean, arm-barring machine with this MMA-inspired workout, demonstrated by **Alberto Del Rio**.



✖ If **Alberto Del Rio** looks like a well-trained fighting instrument, it's because he is one. Del Rio honed his physique after a lifetime of amateur wrestling and mixed martial arts, transforming himself into a lethal weapon. Literally. "You don't have to be locked in a ring to look and feel like a fighter. But you absolutely need to be strong and possess enough muscle mass to hit hard and get hit hard," says trainer Adam Copeland (not the WWE Hall of Famer Edge), copelandfitness.wordpress.com. Perform these three supersets, three times a week over the next month. Ready? Fight!

"I don't spend five or six hours in the gym like most WWE Superstars. I still train in boxing, jiu-jitsu and amateur wrestling. It's only when I'm on the road that I'll go to a traditional weight-lifting gym." —**Alberto Del Rio**

BY MAX BARKE
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JASON TANAKA BLANEY

SUPERSET WITH RAISES

1 MEDICINE BALL PUSH-UP (AT LEFT)

Three sets of 10-12 reps

This set is all about building endurance. With both hands on a medicine ball, lower your body into a push-up as one unit. Drive through your hands, with elbows tucked tight, and extend your arms.

2 HANGING KNEE RAISE (NOT SHOWN)

Three sets of 10-12 reps

Hang from a pull-up bar with an overhand grip. Bend your knees, and, keeping your hips under you, contract your core to bring your knees to your chest. Then, lower your knees under control. That's one rep.

SUPERSET WITH ROWS

3 GLUTE HAM RAISE

Four sets of 6-8 reps

These two exercises are designed to work every single muscle in your backside. First, adjust the bench so your feet are secured and your thighs are on top of the pad. Lower your torso toward the floor. Squeeze your glutes, to bring your torso back toward the ceiling, and then drive your knees into the pad until you are completely upright.



4 SINGLE-ARM DUMBBELL ROW

Four sets of 6-8 reps

Begin by placing one knee and one hand on a flat bench. Hold a dumbbell in your other hand and extend your free leg. Tighten your core and row the dumbbell to the bottom of your rib cage, while keeping your elbow in tight. And then, lower the weight under control. Do all reps on one side, then switch arms.



SUPERSET WITH BENCH PRESS

5

BACKSQUAT

Five sets of 3-5 reps

This superset focuses on total-body strength. To squat, rest the bar on your traps, with feet hip width apart. Sit down deep, thighs below parallel to the floor, then drive through your heels to stand up.

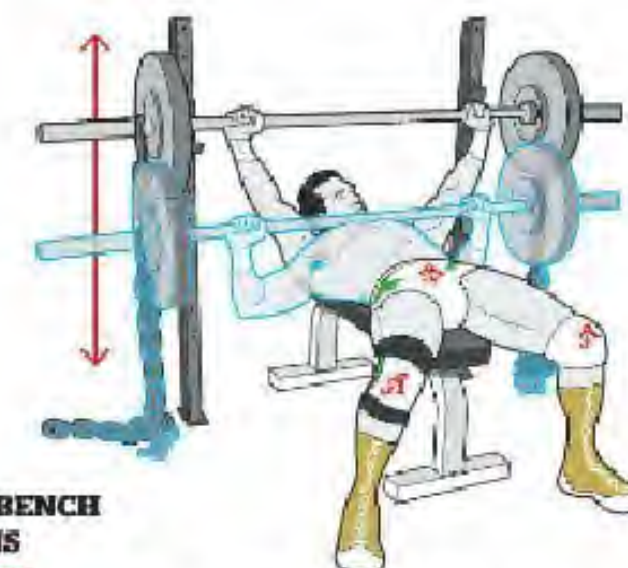


6

FLAT BARBELL BENCH PRESS W/CHAINS

Five sets of 3-5 reps

Attach chains on either side of the bar, with some of the chains lying on the ground. Then, press. Chains build resistance at the top, where you're strongest, and decrease at the bottom—your weakest point.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY PETE SUCESAL (RICHIE'S), JASON WITHEBY (BEE), WORKSHOP 571 (MAY), JEFFREY REA FOR WWTW (TODAY), GLOUVER, BY WTTA, DOWNS FOR ARTISTS IN MATH (Y) (BAND), (MATH) (BAND), (MATH) (BAND)



ALBERTO DEL RIO
TOP 5 CITIES TO WRESTLE IN



"Los Angeles, CA."



"Houston, TX."



"Mexico City, Mexico."



"New York, NY."



"Anywhere in Japan..."

DIVA OF THE MONTH

Boot Camp Beauty

Ten-hut! Our longest-tenured Diva on the roster, **Layla**, reveals what she and **Sgt. Slaughter** have in common, who looks best in camo, her ideal night in, and her two guiltiest pleasures.

1. Do you remember the first time you met Sgt. Slaughter?

In 2006 during the WWE Divas Search, when we all did Sgt. Slaughter's Boot Camp. He always encouraged me, from beginning to end, and, in the process, he has become one of my favorite Legends. He's a part of the biggest experience of my life.

2. So would you say this whole photo shoot takes you back to your first big win in WWE?

It really reminds me more of the time on a media day, when we were working together on the radio. All of a sudden he busted out singing, "Rack City." So I was laughing to myself about that while these photos were being taken.

3. Sgt. Slaughter was incorporated into the G.I. Joe toy line, what was your favorite toy growing up?

I was totally a Jem girl, those dancing dolls. I would do anything to get my hands on those things and all the accompanying accessories.

4. Which Superstar do you think rocks camo the best?

Sarge brought it into style—and original is always the best. But if I had to pick another, I'd say me or Michelle McCool. Divas look great in camo!

5. If you could camouflage yourself for real, where would you love to hide out?

The Superstars' locker room. Not because I want to secretly check them out or anything, but I'd love to get a glimpse at the dynamic going on in there. All of them always try to play it so cool. I want to see them in their natural habitat.

6. What's it like knowing you were the last Diva to hold the Women's Championship?

That, to me, is ridiculously insane because I never thought I'd get the title. Just knowing that whatever happens to me, I'll always have that bit of history, is a cool feeling.

7. You and William Regal have worked together over the years—

do you fellow Brits bond over your shared heritage?

Yeah, we do, all the time. We have little jokes, and sometimes he'll say things like "apples and pears," which means stairs, and I laugh because it's so British. We also love making fun of old TV shows together.

8. Do you ever think of going back and picking up your dancing roots again?

I would always be willing to do something for charity or for WWE, but I've moved on from that part of my life. I was happy when I heard the Miami Heat won the championship this year, but I also felt smug since I had already got my championship ring with them. First time's a charm!

9. Tell us: What's the best home-cooked meal you can get in your household?

When it's me, I cook up Spaghetti Bolognese with turkey. But my mom's the talented one, and she makes a lot of fabulous Moroccan dishes. My favorite is her couscous.

10. Your theme song claims you are "insatiable." What is the one thing you totally crave?

There's two things, and both are guilty pleasures. First is frozen Lite Cool Whip. By itself, after it's been in the freezer. Second would be this crunchy caramel popcorn they only sell in the South.

11. What does a typical night in for you entail?

My big blanket, the baggiest sweatpants I can find, a onesie, and my beanie hat. I will spend hours just catching up on shows I've missed and eating take-out with my friends.

12. What's one thing you have in common with Sgt. Slaughter?

Neither of us has a submissive bone in our body. Let me put it this way: If a guy holds the door for me, my first instinct is to say, "Oh no, sir, after you." I'm not passive, and I never, ever, play the typical female role. I like being strong and independent, and that definitely won't change anytime soon.



"If a guy holds the door for me, my first instinct is to say 'Oh no, sir, after you.'"
—Layla



ALICIA FOX TOP 5 LEADING MEN IN HOLLYWOOD

1

"Hugh Jackman."

2

"Hugh Jackman."

3

"Hugh Jackman."

4

"Hugh Jackman."

5

"Hugh Jackman—no other man for me, baby!"

OCTOBER IN WWE

Turn here first to find out when the Superstars will be in your town next!

1 SmackDown, Baton Rouge, LA; 7:30pm	9 Triple H: The Kingdom Come DVD in stores now!	17 WWE Live Event, Guadalajara, Mexico; 7:30pm	25
2	10 WWE Live Event, Abu Dhabi; 7:00pm	18 WWE Live Event, Knoxville, TN; 7:30pm WWE Live Event, Mexico City, Mexico; 7:30pm	26
3	11 WWE Live Event, Abu Dhabi; 7:00pm	19 WWE Live Event, Louisville, KY; 7:30pm WWE Live Event, Monterrey, Mexico; 7:30pm	27 HELL IN A CELL, Miami, FL; 7:30pm
4 WWE Live Event, Syracuse, NY; 7:30pm	12 WWE Live Event, Abu Dhabi; 7:00pm	20 WWE Live Event, Carbondale, IL; 6:00pm	28 Raw, Orlando, FL; 7:30pm
5 WWE Live Event, Rochester, NY; 7:30pm WWE Live Event, Albany, NY; 7:30pm	13 WWE Live Event, Philadelphia, PA; 6:00pm	21 Raw, Memphis, TN; 6:30pm	29 SmackDown, Tampa, FL; 7:30pm
6 WWE BATTLEGROUND, Buffalo, NY; 7:30pm	14 Raw, St. Louis, MO; 6:30pm Columbus Day	22 SmackDown, Birmingham, AL; 7:00pm	30 Pick up Money in The Bank Anthology DVD today!
7 Raw, Pittsburgh, PA; 7:30pm	15 SmackDown, Kansas City, KS; 7:30pm	23 Night of Champions 2013 in stores now!	31 Halloween
8 SmackDown, Columbus, OH; 7:00pm	16 WWE Live Event, Queretaro, Mexico; 7:30pm	24	

FOR MORE OF THE LATEST LAYLA: VISIT WWW.WWE.COM!
MAGAZINE OF THE MONTH TO SEE EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS!

All show times are approximate and subject to change.

STYLING BY SORIA KAYLA FOR WWW.AGENTOLIVER.COM HAIR AND MAKEUP BY KIRA DOMINIQUE ARTISTS OF TONY FRIEDMAN AND VEST BY URBANOUTLETS
SHIRT BY TOPS LEGENDS BY LEE ANDRE BOOTS BY MYSTIQUE BOUTIQUE GLOVE BY PANTHONY/ELLY/ELLY BY TRASH AND VANDERBILT



FOR AN EXCLUSIVE VIDEO OF LAYLA
DOWNLOAD THE WWE MAGAZINE APP
AVAILABLE ON THE IPAD, ANDROID + KINDLE

WWE QUIZ

What Do You Know About... WWE and Lists?
The biggest triumphs, the toughest challenges, and the array of champs who've come and gone throughout the years all contribute to the long and ever-changing lists documented in WWE's deep history. Here are 10 questions to see if you've been keeping track of it all! Pencils up.

FAMILY TIES

1 Originating from Samoa, the Anoa'i family is the biggest in WWE history. We've eliminated a handful of Superstars from their family tree below. Can you identify the missing relatives?



2 The Hardcore Championship saw 229 different reigns shared among 52 different Superstars. In which of the following countries did the title NEVER change hands?



3 Stone Cold has Stunned countless Superstars over the years. He earned his first WWE Championship by Stunning _____ at _____ with the help of special enforcer _____.

4 WHO AM I? I've managed more than 40 clients during the course of my career, from Superstars such as Jimmy Snuka and Hardcore Holly to Rob Van Dam and Big Show.

- A Bobby Heenan
- B Paul Heyman
- C Michael Hayes
- D Jimmy Hart



5 ThenWo broke off into many incarnations with different names. Can you spot the fake below?

- A ThenWo Hollywood
- B ThenWo Elite
- C ThenWo 2000
- D ThenWo Millenium



6 In Y2J's "1004 Holds" promo, which of the following was NOT named?

- A Japanese Jumping Bean Arm Bar
- B Shooting Star Stapled Super Press
- C Moss-Covered Three-Handled Family Gredunzel
- D Saskatchewan Spinning Nerve Hold

7 WWE Hall of Famer Edge holds 31 titles. Can you list how many times he won each respective championship?

- A U.S. Championship
- B WWE Championship
- C World Heavyweight
- D I-C Championship
- E Tag Team Championship

9 I was voted into the No. 1 slot on WWE.com's long-awaited list ranking the 25 hottest bodies in history.



8 TRUE OR FALSE? The Shield have been putting together quite the hit list since their debut at 2012's Survivor Series—their first victim was Ryback, who was attacked during his match against John Cena and CM Punk for the World Heavyweight Championship.

10 Which percentage of the 18 King Of The Ring winners in history also had the honor of winning the WWE Championship?



RATING SCALE

TIME'S UP!

Did you retain enough wrestling know-how to call yourself "The Brain"? Or did you crumple harder than the Spanish announce table? Match your responses to the answers below to see where you rank in terms of WWE Universe intelligence.



...including the people who said he'd never make it to the top! The man who's been called a "goat" just might turn out to be the "greatest of all time."

What does it mean to potentially be poised to be the new (irsute) face of WWE?

It's funny, because I don't see myself as the new face of WWE. Maybe that's a problem, but I still see John Cena as the face of the company, until somebody unseats him. That doesn't mean just beating him—it means changing what people think of as the face of WWE. If you talk to casual people, he's the face. He's been that for at least the last six or seven years. It'll take time for anyone to unseat him.

Is that something you want? It's a pretty big role. Do you think that you could handle that?

That's definitely something I would like to do. I want to be in that spot. If you get into this business not wanting to be in that spot—now, I'm not saying you shouldn't do this if that's not your thing, because some people just like wrestling. But for somebody like me, my goal is to always be the best, and the best isn't about just being the best in the ring. For me, I've always aspired to be that wherever I worked. When I worked in Ring of Honor, I aspired to be the man in Ring of Honor, and I became that. In Japan, you only get limited opportunities, but you want to be that and always want to be the guy they rely on. When people think of that company, you want them to think of you. Sometimes you try and sometimes you fail, but if you don't try, then you are never going to be there.

How would you describe Daniel Bryan to someone who's unfamiliar with WWE?

That's very difficult, because I've had people say, "Oh, you're a wrestler? What's your character?" Well, I'm an eccentric, small guy. I think of myself as a bearded, hippie-anarchist-Napoleon-complex-

type character. That's pretty much what I think. I don't know what you guys think. How people perceive themselves is always different from how others perceive them, so I don't know what other people think when they see the Daniel Bryan persona. I also think a very interesting part of it is that often what you see is just the real me.

Have you changed much in the past year or so?

There are things that I have to do at this stage that I've never had to worry about before. I've never really had to worry about protecting myself. So I have to be a little more assertive with that stuff. I've also tried to dress a little bit nicer. And that's going incrementally, just to kind of fit the spot. It's like, "Hey, you're becoming the top guy here in WWE, you need to not show up in a T-shirt." So that's a work in progress. Most of my life hasn't changed, though. Everything still feels kind of the same. Nobody's treating me differently. I don't feel like all of a sudden I'm the star. It doesn't feel like that at all. I still feel the same way I felt two years ago.

Many recent events led to your rise, but which do you think was the most effective?

I think it's the "Yes!" chant getting a life of its own. There was no way of knowing that was going to happen. That certainly wasn't the plan when I started doing it. But the momentum just kind of carried that over, and here we are, more than a year later, and people are still doing it. Also, the tag team combination with Kane was never supposed to take off the way it did—and we just clicked. That made me into a very likeable personality for many people. I think—somebody viewers wanted to see on their TV screens. I really became a fun personality to watch.

What's the harshest critique you've heard about yourself since you've been in WWE?

It really depends on your definition of harsh. For me, the harshest thing, and it may be the truest thing, and the thing that may affect me more than anything else with regard to getting where John Cena is, is the idea that when somebody who looks like me comes on TV, the casual viewer is just not interested. The idea is that, "Oh, a big, jacked, tough guy is walking down the ramp, this guy's going to go beat somebody up." Then, somebody like me comes down, or even if you see me in the ring, I'm

5'8". I'm small, and, regardless of the beard thing, the casual viewer, who doesn't care how good a wrestler I am, and doesn't care how entertaining I am, they're just flipping through the channels, and they'll stop here or there. Those more casual viewers aren't interested in someone like me. That's one of those things that I don't know how to change. Because that's putting a limit on the extent to which you can go and there's nothing you can do to change it. That, to me, is the harshest critique. I can take any critique and work on it to try and make it better. I can't grow inches. That's one of the things to me that seems very harsh.

Perceptions can certainly change, though, especially when people are looking for something different to entertain them, right?

The problem—and this has been pointed out to me—is that patience, sometimes, is not always there. For example, for Shawn Michaels to become Shawn Michaels, that took a lot of patience. In 1996, WWE wasn't doing the best, and he was the guy on top. And WWE wasn't doing that well for a while; it was getting to the point where by the time he was contesting matches with Undertaker, he was the draw. If you put him on TV, people would want to keep the channel there. But I'm not convinced that kind of patience exists here in today's WWE.

So when do you think you'll be able to breathe and finally enjoy this ride you've been on?

Here's the thing: You need to enjoy all of it. And you need to be able to breathe and appreciate it while it's happening. If I'm waiting for a time to ask, "Oh when can I just relax?" well, that time, that mythical time in the future when I can relax and enjoy my life—that doesn't exist. Most people work, work, work, thinking, "I can't wait until I retire," or, "I can't wait until I get that little vacation time." And I don't want to live my life so that in five or 10 years I can sit back and not do anything. I want to enjoy what I'm doing now. And so it's all about being able to relax and enjoy the moment. Sometimes things are stressful, but most of the time it's a good kind of stress. I'm still relatively young at 32, but I enjoy the challenges. I enjoy thinking how do I make this work? The only thing that wears you down is the travel. And that's just something during the past eight-to-10 years I've gotten used to.

DANIEL BRYAN
IS MAKING EVERYONE
SUBMIT...

10 TAP-OUTS THAT CHANGED THE GAME

In an age when every single surrender can be recorded, replicated and remixed, nobody wants to be known forever as the guy who quit when it counted. These 10 iconic matches that ended in submissions prove why a tap-out is one of the rarest wins a Superstar can earn.



Bret Hart vs. Bob Backlund
Survivor Series 1994



CM Punk vs. Undertaker
WWE Breaking Point 2009



Ric Flair vs. Dusty Rhodes
August 9, 1986



The Iron Sheik vs. Bob Backlund
December 26, 1983



Undertaker vs. Edge
WrestleMania XXIV



John Cena vs. Triple H
WrestleMania 22



Shawn Michaels vs. Kurt Angle
WrestleMania 21



Bret Hart vs. Mr. Perfect
SummerSlam 1991



Triple H vs. Brock Lesnar
SummerSlam 2012



Bret Hart vs. Stone Cold Steve Austin
WrestleMania 13



75. DANIEL BRYAN vs. ANTONIO CESARO
Raw; July 22, 2013

Anyone who's followed Daniel Bryan through the Indies knows that The American Dragon doesn't flinch at wrestling for an hour straight. But this night he competed in three consecutive matches. The bout against Cesaro was the best, and ended with a blink-and-you'll-see-it-but-want-to-rewind-it-because-it's-so-awesome small package counter from Bryan to win.

74. MATT HARDY vs. JEFF HARDY
The 25th Anniversary of WrestleMania

Sibling rivalries have always been rough in WWE, but none has ever boiled over with the brutality of Matt and Jeff's Extreme Rules *Mania* bout. Ladders, chairs, tables and trash cans were all used with abandon, but our favorite part remains Jeff's creative use of a blown-up *WWE Magazine* cover to bludgeon his bro.

73. EDGE vs. DOLPH ZIGGLER
Royal Rumble 2011

With both Superstars embroiled in liaisons with Vickie Guerrero, this match was every bit as emotional as it was athletic. Add the World Heavyweight Title, and you've got a Top 10 favorite for both Superstars.

72. HULK HOGAN vs. SHAWN MICHAELS
SummerSlam 2005

Imagine a returning WWE icon slamming a rubber ball into the ground and watching it bounce around with no regard for physics. That was this match—a subtle and not-so-subtle example of why HBK is the best of all time.

71. RANDY ORTON vs. RIC FLAIR
Taboo Tuesday 2004

The opponents were set, but the stipulation—a Steel Cage Match, voted on by members of the WWE Universe—made this bout an instant classic.

70. TEAM BISCHOFF vs. TEAM AUSTIN
Survivor Series 2003

It was Shawn Michaels's show in this *Survivor Series* matchup. HBK, while ultimately suffering the loss, eliminated both Y2J and Christian in the final minutes.

69. SHELTON BENJAMIN vs. TRIPLE H
Raw; March 29, 2004

Shelton Benjamin is a name that seems to constantly



pop up on "underrated" lists. That's because we can't really think of a bad match that the über-athletic Gold Standard has ever contested. Putting him in the ring with The Game only upped his drive, and the two produced a back-and-forth battle that didn't disappoint.

68. THE ROCK vs. UNDERTAKER vs. KURT ANGLE
Vengeance 2002

A ring full of star power saw Undertaker enter as WWE Champion and Rock leave with the title—his last as an active Superstar for nearly a decade!

67. UNDERTAKER vs. RIC FLAIR
WrestleMania X8

The Dirtiest Player In The Game sought to halt The Streak by any means necessary. It wasn't to be, though, as Undertaker—in his American Badass incarnation—put Flair down despite Nailch's best efforts.

66. MIKE AWESOME vs. MASATO TANAKA
ECW One Night Stand 2005

Watch this match again—complete with its chairshots, broken tables and powerbombs—and you'll be screaming stuff we can't print at your TV. Or smartphone.



65. THE WORLD'S GREATEST TAG TEAM vs. BILLY KIDMAN & REY MYSTERIO
Vengeance 2003

Kidman and Rey Mysterio found chemistry working together in WCW. Raas and Benjamin, The WGTT, found chemistry by being two elite-level tag team competitors. All four men found fantastic chemistry in the ring, working each others' styles and moves like true technicians.

64. SHAWN MICHAELS vs. KURT ANGLE
Raw; October 3, 2005

A 30-Minute Iron Man Match between the self-proclaimed greatest wrestler in the world, and the *WWE Magazine*-proclaimed greatest wrestler in the world—we're bummed it had to stop at 30 minutes. But that means we can re-watch it twice as many times...

63. THE UNHOLY ALLIANCE vs. THE FBI vs. KID KASH & SUPER CRAZY
ECW Guilty As Charged 2001

The final ECW PPV left everything in the ring, as evidenced by this high-octane, high-flying, high-risk meeting between some of ECW's staple Superstars. If you want to get a feel for what ECW was about, start here.

62. DOLPH ZIGGLER vs. KOFI KINGSTON
Raw; September 24, 2012

When two Superstars wrestle enough, the WWE Uni-



verse is often eager for change. Not so with Dolph and Kofi, who continually raise the bar of their—and our—expectations regarding how good their matches can be.

61. HULK HOGAN vs. RANDY ORTON
SummerSlam 2006

Orton even went so far as to use Hulk's daughter, Brooke, as a pawn to get under The Hulkster's skin. Hulkamania ran wild, though, and The Viper was tamed.

60. SHAWN MICHAELS vs. SHELTON BENJAMIN
Raw; May 2, 2005

The young Benjamin looks like a million bucks in this match against HBK, who ends up clocking Shelton with the most perfectly timed Sweet Chin Music ever.

59. DANIEL BRYAN vs. DOLPH ZIGGLER
WWE Bragging Rights 2010

Ziggler and Daniel Bryan had met before, and have met



since, but this bout seems to be a perfect representation of what they're capable of doing in the ring.

58. EDGE vs. SHAWN MICHAELS
Raw; January 22, 2007

Re-watching this match is bittersweet—on the one hand, we can't look away. On the other, it makes us sad that "retirement" is a thing.

57. RANDY ORTON vs. SHAWN MICHAELS
Unforgiven 2003

Orton's ringside mentor, Ric Flair, introduced a pair of brass knuckles, which The Viper used to KO HBK.

56. BROCK LESNAR vs. BIG SHOW
SmackDown; June 12, 2003

What better way to end a battle between two behemoths than to pull off a top-rope Superplex that collapsed the ring? Check it out on WWE.com!

55. SHAWN MICHAELS vs. REY MYSTERIO
Raw; Eddie Guerrero Tribute Show

After the untimely death of Eddie Guerrero, each Superstar and Diva paid tribute in his or her own way. Rey Mysterio—a dear friend of Eddie's—and Shawn Michaels did so by contesting a classic match, free of all grudges and games, designed to showcase the legacy of great wrestling that Eddie was, and will forever be, known for.

HARDCORE/STREET FIGHT/NO DQ/ANYTHING GOES	SUPERSTAR FAREWELL	LADDER MATCH/TITLE	LEGEND SIGHTING	TITLE MATCH
CIVICS	CRAZY MOVE/MOMENT	IRON MAN	CAGE MATCH/HELL IN A CELL/ELIMINATION CHAMBER	HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE



54. UNDERTAKER vs. EDGE
WrestleMania XXIV



'Taker goes 16-0 by defeating Edge to win the World Heavyweight Championship!

53. MARK HENRY vs. DANIEL BRYAN
SmackDown; November 29, 2011



Inside the confines of a steel cage, Bryan's reputation for being able to stand toe-to-toe with Superstars twice—or even three times—his size was cemented.

52. JOHN CENA vs. REY MYSTERIO
Raw; July 25, 2011



This match showcased Cena's aptitude for going toe-to-toe with the greatest luchador of all time.

51. ROB VAN DAM vs. MR. PERFECT
Sunday Night Heat; March 24, 2002



This match happened when Mr. Perfect made his brief return to WWE in the early aughts. And, as expected, it was a high-flying, precision-grappling affair.

50. TEAM HELL NO & UNDERTAKER vs. THE SHIELD
Raw; April 22, 2011



The Shield pushed 'Taker & co. to their limits and for a



49. MOLLY HOLLY vs. TRISH STRATUS
King Of The Ring 2002



Molly's match against Trish Stratus at *KOTR* proved that, no matter her incarnation, she could still mix it up with the best Divas—past or present.

48. DANIEL BRYAN vs. WILLIAM REGAL
WWE Superstars; November 10, 2011



A classic example of student vs. teacher saw the former pupil, Daniel Bryan, pay homage to his one-time mentor, William Regal, by taking The Master Villain, to the limits. This match is your go-to if you want to see some technically proficient brutality!

47. MICKIE JAMES vs. TRISH STRATUS
WrestleMania 22



Mickie James proved that she wasn't just an unhinged fluke when she vowed the WWE Universe with an in-ring repertoire that felled the WWE Hall of Famer.

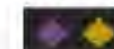
46. CM PUNK vs. DANIEL BRYAN
Raw; February 27, 2012



Two former colleagues from the indies wowed a crowd who appreciated every high spot, counter and submission applied in this example of technical wrestling not seen since the days of Mr. Perfect and Bret Hart.



45. JOHN CENA vs. SHAWN MICHAELS
WrestleMania 23



Cena revved onto the scene in a customized Mustang, and went full speed ahead to unseat Michaels.

44. THE ROCK vs. EDDIE GUERRERO
Raw; July 22, 2002



Rock and Eddie Guerrero, riding a wave of momentum from his recent WWE arrival, locked horns in a classic.

43. BROCK LESNAR vs. UNDERTAKER
No Mercy 2002



This Hell In A Cell encounter surpassed all expectations and was as magnificent as it was ultraviolent.

42. ROB VAN DAM vs. JERRY LYNN
ECW Guilty as Charged 2001



What better way to send off ECW than with a battle between two of its most innovative Superstars?

41. LONDON & KENDRICK vs. THE HARDYS vs. MNM vs. WILLIAM REGAL & DAVE TAYLOR
Armageddon 2006



In this memorable match, every team hit the gas with lead feet, and poor Joey Mercury might still be trying to find b)ts of his nose.



40. JEFF HARDY vs. TRIPLE H
SmackDown; April 12, 2001



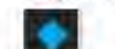
In the upset of the decade, Jeff Hardy—a rookie risk-taker—defeated The Game to capture his first I-C Title.

39. THE SHIELD vs. TEAM HELL NO & RYBACK
WWE TLC 2012



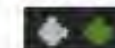
The Shield took to the land and air for a hardcore assault to remain undefeated.

38. ROYAL RUMBLE MATCH
Royal Rumble 2002



Triple H powered through an eight-month rehab on his road to winning the 2002 Royal Rumble Match.

37. WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP MONEY IN THE BANK LADDER MATCH
Money In The Bank 2013



The Philly crowd made this one to remember. So did Damien Sandow, coming out of nowhere to win.

36. BROCK LESNAR vs. KURT ANGLE
WrestleMania XIX



Lesnar's infamous Shooting Star Press gets most of the press from this contest, but this bout was a technical clinic from start to breathtaking finish.



35. TRIPLE H vs. BROCK LESNAR
WrestleMania 29



Putting his career on the line was just the fuel The Game needed to pummel Brock Lesnar into a pinfall.

34. CHRIS JERICO vs. STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN
Vengeance 2001



Austin proved to be a challenge for a primed Chris Jericho in a great example of Y2J's claim to main events.

33. ROYAL RUMBLE MATCH
Royal Rumble 2007



The 20th annual Rumble made history when it was won, for the first time ever, by the 30th entrant—Undertaker.

32. KURT ANGLE vs. SHANE McMAHON
King Of The Ring 2001

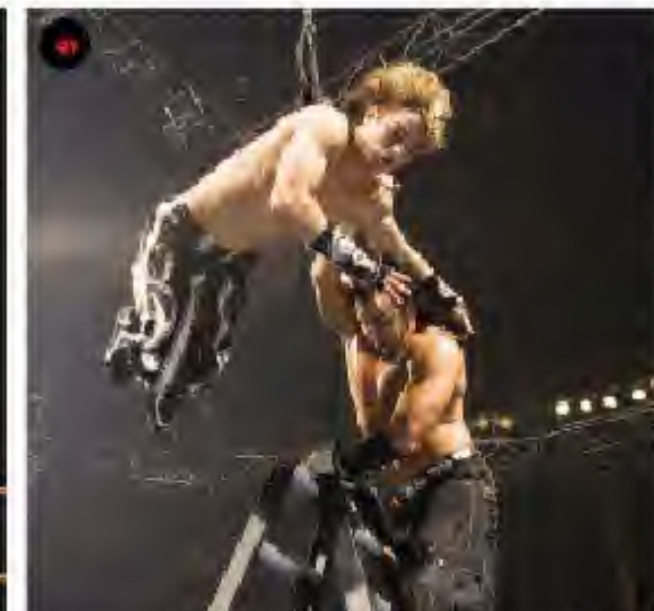


Who could forget the crash, shatter and sickening thud of Shane McMahon being belly-to-belly suplexed through a plate-glass window?

31. JBL vs. EDDIE GUERRERO
SmackDown; July 15, 2004



This carnage-filled Cage Match remains an under-the-radar favorite nearly a decade on.



30. RVD vs. JOHN CENA
One Night Stand 2006



RVD walked into the Hammerstein Ballroom as the hero of the revived ECW, taking down the valiant WWE Champion John Cena, to the delight of the extreme faithful.

29. TRIPLE H vs. SHAWN MICHAELS
Bad Blood 2004



Former best friends collided inside The Cell, beating each other senseless until only The Game was left.

28. JOHN CENA vs. BROCK LESNAR
Extreme Rules 2012



Avenging a surprise attack on *Raw* weeks prior, Cena took Lesnar to the limits of an Extreme Rules encounter.

27. SHEAMUS vs. DANIEL BRYAN
Extreme Rules 2012



During this two-out-of-three falls bout, Sheamus and Bryan left everything in the ring three times, with the former coming up 2-1 to retain the WHC.

26. UNDERTAKER vs. RANDY ORTON
WrestleMania 21



Few posed the legit threat to The Streak The Viper did. In the end, though, he only came close to ending it.



25. BROCK LESNAR vs. KURT ANGLE:
WWE CHAMPIONSHIP IRON MAN MATCH
SmackDown; September 18, 2003



Lesnar withstands a brutally applied Ankle Lock in the final minute of this classic to maintain his lead and win the WWE Championship.

24. CM PUNK vs. JEFF HARDY
SummerSlam 2009



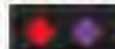
With bitter hatred between the two Superstars in action, this TLC Match was filled with more OMG! moments than a "fail" compilation. In the end, though, it was The Straight Edge Superstar who finally took advantage of Jeff Hardy's daredevil antics to win the World Heavyweight Championship.

23. JOHN CENA vs. TRIPLE H
WrestleMania 22



By refusing himself to quit, that's exactly what John Cena made The Cerebral Assassin do before a hot Chicago crowd in an improbable (and memorable) win over The King of Kings.

22. STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN vs. THE ROCK
WrestleMania X-Seven



Stone Cold Steve Austin did the unthinkable by aligning with Mr. McMahon to win the WWE Championship at the conclusion of this emotional roller coaster.

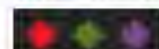


21. EDGE vs. JOHN CENA
Unforgotten 2006



Cena dropped The Rated-R Superstar through two stacked tables, to earn his third WWE Championship.

20. SHAWN MICHAELS vs. RIC FLAIR
WrestleMania XXIV



Naitch competed like he'd found the fountain of youth, but HBK retired him at the end of this heartbreaking Career-Ending Match. It still remains a favorite bout for both Legends, who left everything in the ring that night.

19. UNDERTAKER vs. JEFF HARDY
Raw; July 1, 2002



This Ladder Match earned Jeff Hardy ultimate respect. Though he lost, The Charismatic Enigma fought back against "Taker till he had nothing left. Then he fought some more. "Taker raised Hardy's hand in honor.

18. BATISTA vs. TRIPLE H
WrestleMania 21



Batista took down his former stablemate to emotionally win the World Heavyweight Championship.

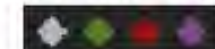


17. RANDY ORTON vs. CACTUS JACK
Backlash 2004



Sure, Orton prevailed; sure, he survived. But not before Jack took a barbed-wire baseball bat to him. Re-watch this one, and be grateful that you're not in the ring.

16. MONEY IN THE BANK LADDER MATCH
WrestleMania 21



The MITB Match was minted at *WrestleMania 21*, by Edge, who outlasted five others to snatch the briefcase.

15. KURT ANGLE vs. SHAWN MICHAELS
WrestleMania 21



Angle and HBK tested each other all night, but the Olympian's Ankle Lock proved too painful.

14. LITA vs. TRISH STRATUS
Raw; December 6, 2004



These two women threw themselves at one another with total abandon. On top of that, Stratus was wrestling with a broken nose!

13. BROCK LESNAR vs. THE ROCK
SummerSlam 2002



See the moment where "The Next Big Thing" became just "The Big Thing" by winning the WWE Title.



12. FIRST ELIMINATION CHAMBER MATCH
Survivor Series 2002



In the end, HBK made history by winning the first EC Match and his first World Heavyweight Championship.

11. EDGE vs. MICK FOLEY
Hardcore Match: WrestleMania 22



We'd say watch it again, but we were all pretty exhausted after having seen it the first time.

10. SHAWN MICHAELS vs. CHRIS JERICHO
WrestleMania XIX



This contest pushed both Superstars to their limits, and both seemingly walked away with respect—that is, until Jericho kicked HBK below the belt on the way out.

9. TRIPLE H vs. STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN
No Way Out 2001



In WWE's first-ever Three Stages of Hell Match, The Game and The Rattlesnake set the standard for one of the most dangerous stip of the past two decades.

8. JOHN CENA vs. RANDY ORTON
Anything Goes Iron Man Match:
WWE Bragging Rights 2009



These two Superstars combined for one of the most intense hours in recent WWE history.



7. THE ROCK vs. HULK HOGAN
WrestleMania X8



Although The Great One walked away the victor, the Toronto SkyDome stood by The Hulkster throughout, as the torch was passed from one icon to another.

6. REY MYSTERIO vs. EDDIE GUERRERO
SummerSlam 2005



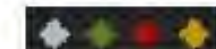
During this lucha-fueled classic between former best amigos, Eddie and Rey revolutionized how to use a ladder with in-ring creativity. At stake was custody of Rey's son, and the legacy of the Mysterio name.

5. UNDERTAKER vs. TRIPLE H
Hell In A Cell End Of An Era:
WrestleMania XXVIII



After Undertaker hit the final nail in the coffin with a Tombstone, the bitter rivals leaned on each other—and Special Guest Ref. Shawn Michaels—as they exited the ring, battered, bruised, and nearly broken, showing the ultimate sign of respect.

4. EDGE & CHRISTIAN vs. THE HARDY BOYS vs. THE DUDLEY BOYS,
WrestleMania X-Seven



This match—dubbed TLC II—served as the show-stealer of *WrestleMania X-Seven*, thanks to the high-flying, death-defying offenses on display from all three of these Ladder Match daredevil teams.

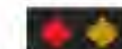


3. THE ROCK vs. JOHN CENA
WrestleMania XXVIII



The term "Dream Match" gets thrown around a lot in this business. But with this particular encounter, one Superstar representing WWE's present, and one representing its past, waged war to determine the company's future. And so, here, even the expression "Dream Match" doesn't do one bit of justice to this barn burner.

2. CM PUNK vs. JOHN CENA
Money In The Bank 2011



The match itself was physically tremendous, with action swinging both ways before the unthinkable occurred—CM Punk won, and then, bailed with the WWE Championship in tow.

1. SHAWN MICHAELS vs. UNDERTAKER
WrestleMania XXVI



WWE Magazine boldly declared this match the greatest *WrestleMania* main event of all time. And we stand by that claim. So, not to put it at the top of this list would be hypocritical, blasphemous, and, most importantly, incorrect. The Career vs. The Streak Match captured EVERYTHING WWE represents, and resulted in the two greatest in-ring Superstars of all time leaving EVERYTHING they had in the middle of the ring. For The Deadman, that meant being tested in a way in which no Superstar, past or present, had ever tested him before. And, for Shawn Michaels, the contest meant the conclusion of his illustrious career. Never once did we doubt we were witnessing history.



In Oct. 2006, WWE Magazine ranked the 51 most hated Superstars in WWE history. And we did a good job (Horowitz pat). But a lot's changed since then, and, looking back, our list may be a bit dated. Okay—a LOT dated. So, we opened up the files, re-examined our methods, and compiled a new, more current list of the biggest jerks of all time.



51 DOLPH ZIGGLER

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
KING KONG BUNDY

► By putting on live-star matches, and getting the crowd to cheer even though he's a cocky, brash jerk, Ziggler shows he has that rare ability to transcend the light and dark sides, just like icons Edge and HBK. He's good. He knows it. And he makes sure we do, too.



49 ANONYMOUS RAW GM

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
"COWBOY" BOB ORTON

► In mid-2011, there was no bigger jerk than the Anonymous Raw GM. The twang of its inbox often signaled the worst for many WWE Superstars, held at its digital mercy. We won't even get into who it turned out to be—it's just too heinously depressing and lame.



50 EARTHQUAKE

PREVIOUSLY
47
REPLACES
VADER

► He sat on and killed Jake "The Snake's" snake. To reiterate: He. Sat. On. And. Killed. Jake. The. Snake's. Snake! We're still in therapy.



48 GORGEOUS GEORGE

PREVIOUSLY
25
REPLACES
SENSATIONAL SHERRI

► Gorgeous George is the pioneer of the "pretty boy" gimmick in WWE. But so many guys have ripped him off that his legacy has become more diluted than his Chanel No. 10. That said, his pre-match routine of "disinfecting" the ring is still the mark of bad guy greatness.



47 ALBERTO DEL RIO

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
EARTHQUAKE

► Del Rio has recently returned to his rule-breaking ways, which suit him truly well. Deep down, we all know that ADR is the same self-serving blowhard who debuted behind vignettes telling us how great he was. It's that Del Rio who always comes out on top.



46 CHRIS JERICHO

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
RANDY ORTON

► As an emerging cruiserweight in WCW, Jericho did whatever he could to get noticed in spite of the "big man" favoritism and politicking. And it worked. Want examples? Google "Man of 1,004 Holds," and make sure you're not eating anything you could choke on.



45 SENSATIONAL SHERRI

PREVIOUSLY
48
REPLACES
BIG JOHN STUDD

Trained by The Fabulous Moolah (see No. 21), Sensational Sherri maintained her rep as WWE's most vengeful vixen for more than 10 years. We'll never forget how she turned on The Macho Man, beating him down after he lost a Career-Ending bout at WMVX.



44 SHAWN MICHAELS

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
PAUL ORNDORFF

► HBK deserves a spot on this list because his villainy jumpstarted the career we know today. By turning on Marty Jannetty, and sending him through the fully insured "Barber Shop" window, Michaels began an epic run that foreshadowed his future legacy.



43 KILLER KOWALSKI

PREVIOUSLY
11
REPLACES
RANDY SAVAGE

► The man who trained Triple H and Damien Sandow was first pitched as a fan favorite by the name of "Tarzan Kowalski." That totally didn't work. Partially because Kowalski was just a menacing 6'7" brute, and partially because he once ripped off an opponent's ear!



42 HARLEY RACE

PREVIOUSLY
29
REPLACES
BRIAN PILLMAN

► As the most dominant NWA World Champion of the '80s, Harley Race had no reservations about breaking spirits, twisting knees and angering fans. In 1983, Race even took out a bounty on Ric Flair, offering cash money to anyone who could cripple The Nature Boy!



41 RANDY SAVAGE

PREVIOUSLY
43
REPLACES
ADRIAN ADONIS

► The late Macho Man's career is spotted with more instances of treachery than his outfits have streamers. He turned on Hulk Hogan during a spat over Miss Elizabeth. And he crushed Ricky Steamboat's larynx prior to their historic confrontation at *WrestleMania III*.



40 JIMMY HART

PREVIOUSLY
30
REPLACES
MICKIE JAMES

Ya know the blue jay that won't stop cackling outside your bedroom window? Coif it with a mullet, throw on a budget wedding-singer's outfit, add a megaphone, and you've got The Mouth of the South. Sometimes, villainy can mean being just plain annoying.



39 AJ LEE

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
JERRY LAWLER

► AJ will lure you into her web, capture your heart, then rip your head off. Not literally, but just as a spider catches prey, AJ knows how to get any Superstar to fall for her. Then, either due to boredom or scorn, she makes sure they fall even *harder* back to Earth.



38 THE NEW WORLD ORDER

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
STAN HANSEN

► Were it not for their epic fizzle, The nWo could've probably been in the top three of this list. They helped destroy a company—literally and figuratively—from the inside-out using a "with us, or against us" mentality that swept up tons of former fan favorites.



37 KURT ANGLE

PREVIOUSLY
14
REPLACES
TERRY FUNK

► As the true intolerant jock, there wasn't a time during Angle's WWE run when we weren't afraid he was going to stuff us in a locker. Angle's intensity only added to his legacy of remorseless in-ring combat, and brutal physicality against any opponent.



36 JERRY "The King" LAWLER

PREVIOUSLY
39
REPLACES
YOKOZUNA

► While no Joffrey Baratheon, Lawler's legacy as one of royalty's most-hated—thanks to highlights such as trashing Bret Hart's KOTR coronation, and the infamous Andy Kaufman beatdown—will endure well after he hangs up his crown for good.



35 LAY-COOL

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
KEN PATERA

► Ugh. It's those girls you *thought* peaked in high school, but actually got *holier*. Flaunting their assets like a pair of peacocks, Layla and Michelle McCool made a name by being mean and nasty in a way that would've made Regina George proud.



34 YOKOZUNA

PREVIOUSLY 36
REPLACES
GREG "THE HAMMER" VALENTINE

► Few Superstars on this list are ranked because of athletic accomplishment. But few Superstars are 500-plus-pound Sumo monsters who move with the ease of a circus acrobat. That combination just makes Yokozuna plain scary. Like, *Pacific Rim* scary.



33 RANDY ORTON

PREVIOUSLY
46
REPLACES
LITA

► Orton is one of those Superstars who we like when he's playing nice, but love when he's not. By ranking him 13 notches higher this time, we're trying to create a self-fulfilling prophecy and nudge destiny to give us a taste of that Viper's venom of old.



32 ERIC BISCHOFF

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
MR. FUJI

► The raven hair. The smarmy grin. The malicious attempts to run WWE out of town. With such a résumé, we're ashamed that Bischoff wasn't on the list before. Even though half of his career was spent in WCW, WWE hasn't seen a villain of his caliber in some time.



31 TRIPLE H

PREVIOUSLY
3
REPLACES
BIG CAT ERNIE LADD

► When The Game was bad, he was *really* bad. It's hard to imagine that the Superstar who now stoically fights for his family and his company was once the most hated man in the biz. Good or bad, we just hope we haven't seen the last of his iconic in-ring career.



30 KANE

PREVIOUSLY
16
REPLACES
JIMMY HART

► Kane comes down on the list because, well, he's *super* funny. Over the past year, we've seen another side of The Big Red Monster. And while it's one that we love, Kane's anger management classes and hug-a-thons don't bode well for his villainy quotient.



29 LITA

PREVIOUSLY
33
REPLACES
HARLEY RACE

► We kicked Lita up a few notches because, looking back at her prime, we can't equate any Diva's ability to wrench up the badness quite like her. Her run with Edge was one of the most diabolical schemes in WWE history, a scheme for which she should be honored.



28 MR. FUJI

PREVIOUSLY
32
REPLACES
ORIGINAL SHEIK

► Re-watch some of "The Devious One's" greatest hits on YouTube and you'll see what we did—a heartless mastermind who controlled Superstars to do his bidding, all the while never being shy about throwing salt in the eyes of their opponents. *Banzai!*



27 EDGE

PREVIOUSLY
13
REPLACES
SHANE McMAHON

► Even as one of the most opportunistic Superstars of all time, Edge is just...cool. His early retirement and induction into the Hall of Fame add to his legacy, helping us to remember what a treasure he was, even if he deserved a punch in the face more often than not.



26 RYBACK

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
IVAN KOLOFF

► Ryback is a bully the likes of which WWE has never seen before. Making his impact by destroying multiple competitors at a time, he showed that he doesn't care who or what stands in his way.



25 THE ROCK

PREVIOUSLY
6
REPLACES
GORGEOUS GEORGE

► The Rock was such a jerk when he hit his stride in the late '90s. Arrogant, pompous and, worst of all, *really* good at what he did. Even when he's making fun of us, his charisma supercedes any semblance of logic and elicits nothing but raw, visceral cheers.



24 THE SHIELD

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
THE FABULOUS MOOLAH

► Strains of the "Sierra, Hotel, India, Echo, Lima, Delta" battle cry stir the WWE Universe into a frenzy of hatred. Unfortunately for everyone in their path, and everyone with a favorite Superstar, it seems as though no one is safe from The Hounds of Justice.



23 ZEB COLTER

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
THE GRAND WIZARD

► The term "lightning rod" is used to describe someone who incites controversy by merely being around. Zeb's name alone has been enough to whet appetites as they hunger to disagree with everything he says.



22 WILLIAM REGAL

PREVIOUSLY NR
REPLACES
"RAVISHING" RICK RUDE

► Rarely is such a utility player—a Superstar capable of bringing out the best in *everyone* he wrestles—such as William Regal given his due. If you need proof that he deserves a spot, just pump up his music. The opening notes basically say, "EEEEEE-VILL!"



21 THE FABULOUS MOOLAH

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

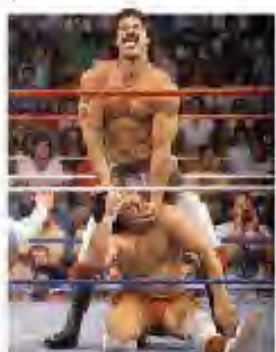
► In the age before reality TV made it possible for any average female to sprout claws, it took a real woman to make the entire world hate her. Moolah wasn't here to make friends—and she didn't, earning boos as Women's Champion for 28 years!



20 MARK HENRY

PREVIOUSLY
24
REPLACES
THE IRON SHEIK

► The World's Strongest Man seems content to play by his own set of rules in pursuit of championships. He's been in WWE for nearly 20 years, and he's spent a good portion of that time slamming, squashing and silencing opponents and critics, all on his own terms.



19 "RAVISHING" RICK RUDE

PREVIOUSLY
22
REPLACES
MR. PERFECT

► Now that we're a bit older, we understand even more what a jerk Rick Rude was. He used every opportunity he had to make fun of our dads and hit on our moms. And he did it with the physique of a Bowflex model.



18 STONE COLD STEVE AUSTIN

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
MAGNIFICENT MURACO

► Shame on us for not observing The Rattlesnake's history of villainy on our original list. It's possible we just glossed over Stone Cold's sketchy past because we love him so much, but his sports malfeasance still bears recognition. And that's the bottom line...



17 THE IRON SHEIK

PREVIOUSLY
20
REPLACES
JESSE "THE BODY" VENTURA

► Using the Iran hostage crisis as the basis for your character's platform is a great way to draw ire. Sheik swapping allegiances to Iraq in the early '90s made our distaste for his antics even more palpable.



16 THE MIZ

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
KANE

► The Miz's journey in WWE has been spent largely on the opposite side of good, as the lion's share of his accomplishments and title wins have come as a result of his disregard for all things sacred in decency.



15 MR. PERFECT

PREVIOUSLY
19
REPLACES
HONKY TONK MAN

► Perfect's son, Curtis Axel, is just as obnoxious, braggadocious and talented as his father before him. So, in addition to throwing TD passes to himself, bulls-eyeing dartboards and executing Olympic-level dives, Mr. Perfect also spawned perfection. What a jerk.



14 JESSE "The Body" VENTURA

PREVIOUSLY
17
REPLACES
KURT ANGLE

► Ventura shamelessly lifted Billy Graham's look and Gorgeous George's catchphrases then frosted them with his own debatably suitable nickname. A noted conspiracy theorist, Ventura also irritated all the general public while he peddled his agendas.



13 CM PUNK

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
EDGE

► CM Punk's scattered forays into villainous territory have been so vivid and enriched with treachery that he's earned this spot. Proclamations of being the "Best In The World" only enhance his sinister legacy.



12 THE NEXUS

PREVIOUSLY NR
REPLACES
RIC FLAIR

► The Nexus changed the landscape of the business in a single night by arriving and proving that they weren't role models. Models just stand around. Villains...they get things done.



11 HONKY TONK MAN

PREVIOUSLY
15
REPLACES
KILLER KOWALSKI

► Honky Tonk Man was essentially what Justin Bieber would be today, were he a WWE Superstar—obnoxious, talented and unavoidable. We have to say it's incredibly satisfying to see Honky get Tonk'd with his own guitar whenever he strolls around these parts.



10 JBL

PREVIOUSLY
9
REPLACES
TED DIBIASE

► Catching illegal immigrants at the U.S. border, flaunting his wealth, and just being a supremely unlikeable blowhard make JBL's return to commentary welcome. We just hope he'll bring back some of that arrogant dirtbag who held the WWE Championship.



9 RIC FLAIR

PREVIOUSLY 12
REPLACES
JOHN "BRADSHAW" LAVFIELD

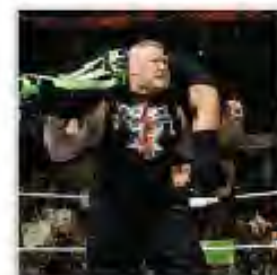
► Flair remains a Legend—and the only Superstar with two WWE Hall of Fame rings—both for his unfathomable in-ring skill, staying power, and a reputation as the undisputed "Dirtiest Player In The Game."



8 "CLASSY" FREDDIE BLASSIE

PREVIOUSLY
5
REPLACES
BOBBY "THE BRAIN" HEENAN

► When you're known for introducing yourself as "Ayatollah" while managing a Muslim Superstar, it's hard not to classify you as one of the greatest villains of all time. That and, coining "pencil-neck geek."



7 BROCK LESNAR

PREVIOUSLY NR
REPLACES
"NATURE BOY" BUDDY ROGERS

► He's the only Superstar on this list to throw a one-legged kid down the stairs. Were he a little more two-dimensional, he could've easily nabbed the No. 1 spot. He doesn't care who you are—hero or villain, you're just a guts-filled punching bag to Brock Lesnar.



6 BOBBY "The Brain" HEENAN

PREVIOUSLY
8
REPLACES
THE ROCK

► Like a fine wine, The Brain's spot has grown higher on this list with age. There has never been—and never will be—another like Bobby Heenan, whose sprint-fast wit still makes us laugh, cringe and feel really bad for whomever he happens to be talking about.



5 MR. McMAHON

PREVIOUSLY
2
REPLACES
"CLASSY" FREDDIE BLASSIE

► One of the worst things he ever claims to have been called is "a nice guy." But innovations such as McMahon's Millions, and Creamside-colored suits never fail to make us appreciate the good side of his evil.



4 PAUL HEYMAN

PREVIOUSLY NR
REPLACES
SUPERSTAR BILLY GRAHAM

► Since his debut, he's enthralled and exploited clients to do his bidding in the most relentless ways. Capable of eliciting pity, then morphing into a rabid, relentless monster at a moment's notice, Paul Heyman is dangerous because everything he does is beyond calculation.



3 "The Million Dollar Man" TED DIBIASE

PREVIOUSLY
10
REPLACES
TRIPLE H

► He was the original One Percent. Wealthy, brash, arrogant and looking to buy himself out of trouble at every turn, DiBiase could've easily worked at Goldman Sachs had his WWE career not panned out. He deserves no sympathy—and that's the mark of a special villain.



2 "Rowdy" RODDY PIPER

PREVIOUSLY
1
REPLACES
MR. McMAHON

► Many will cry blasphemy at The Hot Rod's demotion to No. 2 on this list. But now Piper is admired and loved no matter what he does. We all see what Piper is doing—and what he has done—is for our own good.



1 VICKIE GUERRERO

PREVIOUSLY
NR
REPLACES
"ROWDY" RODDY PIPER

Can you recall a time when she was on TV and you didn't wince, boo or jeer? Can you recall an instance in which two normally polite and welcome words—"Excuse Me!"—didn't elicit a skin-crawling reaction? That's because Guerrero is WWE's greatest villain. Not just of our time, but of *all* time. No Superstar or Diva has been more universally abhorred on such a consistent basis as to have her proclamations on the mic legitimately drowned out by the boos from the WWE Universe. Her revilement sets her apart on this scale of WWE history.

TODAY'S WWE SUPERSTARS... YESTERDAY

FIVE YEARS AGO, we traveled down to Tampa, FL, for the opening of FCW. A lot has changed in that time. NXT has taken over, and WWE has opened its state-of-the-art Performance Center. Some of these faces have gone on to in-ring greatness. Some you may have forgotten, and more than a few never made it to the main roster. But at this point in time, they all shared one thing beside these rings—the dream of becoming a WWE Superstar.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX TEHRANI



CURTIS AXEL
NXT, 6/8/10
Intercontinental Champion,
WWE Tag Team Champion,
Paul Heyman Club

FANDANGO
NXT, 12/1/10
SmackDown, 3/1/13
Member of Revolution,
Ballroom Dancing Champion,
NXT Season 4 Winner

**SCOTTY GOLDMAN
(COLT CABANA)**
SmackDown, 8/15/08
Independent Wrestler,
Podcaster, Small
Businessman, Chicagoan

KIZARNY
After weeks of
confusing vignettes,
SmackDown, 11/2/09

TRENT BARRETT
ECW, 12/1/09

DREW MCINTYRE
SmackDown, 8/28/09
Intercontinental Champion,
WWE Tag Team Champion,
Member of 3MB, Chosen One

TYSON KIDD
ECW, 2/10/09
WWE Tag Team Champion,
World Tag Team Champion,
Nexxtone

WADE BARRETT
NXT, 3/23/10
Three-Time Intercontinental Champion,
NXT Season 1 Winner,
Leader of The Nexus and The Corre,
appeared in Dead Man Drivin',
Sammy Award Winner

DAVID OTUNGA
NXT, 2/23/10
Two-Time WWE
Tag Team Champion,
Appeared in The Call,
Multiple Slammy
Award Winner

ALEX RILEY
NXT, 6/10/10

MICHAEL TARVER
NXT, 2/23/10
Sammy Award Winner

BYRON SAKTON
ECW, 10/27/09

TYLER REKS
ECW, 6/30/09

RYAN BRADDOCK
SmackDown, 8/15/08

PRIMO
Raw, 8/18/08
Two-Time WWE Tag Team Champion,
World Tag Team Champion

GAVIN SPEARS
ECW, 8/19/08

ERIC ESCOBAR
SmackDown, 9/29/09

DJ GABRIEL
ECW, 11/18/08

SHEAMUS
ECW, 6/30/09
Two-Time WWE Champion,
World Heavyweight Champion,
United States Champion,
Royal Rumble Winner,
King Of The Ring,
Multiple Slammy Award Winner

DOLPH ZIGGLER
Raw, 9/15/08
Two-Time World Heavyweight Champion,
Intercontinental Champion,
United States Champion,
MITB Winner, Show Or

BRIE BELLA
SmackDown, 8/29/08
Divas Champion,
Star of Total Divas on E!

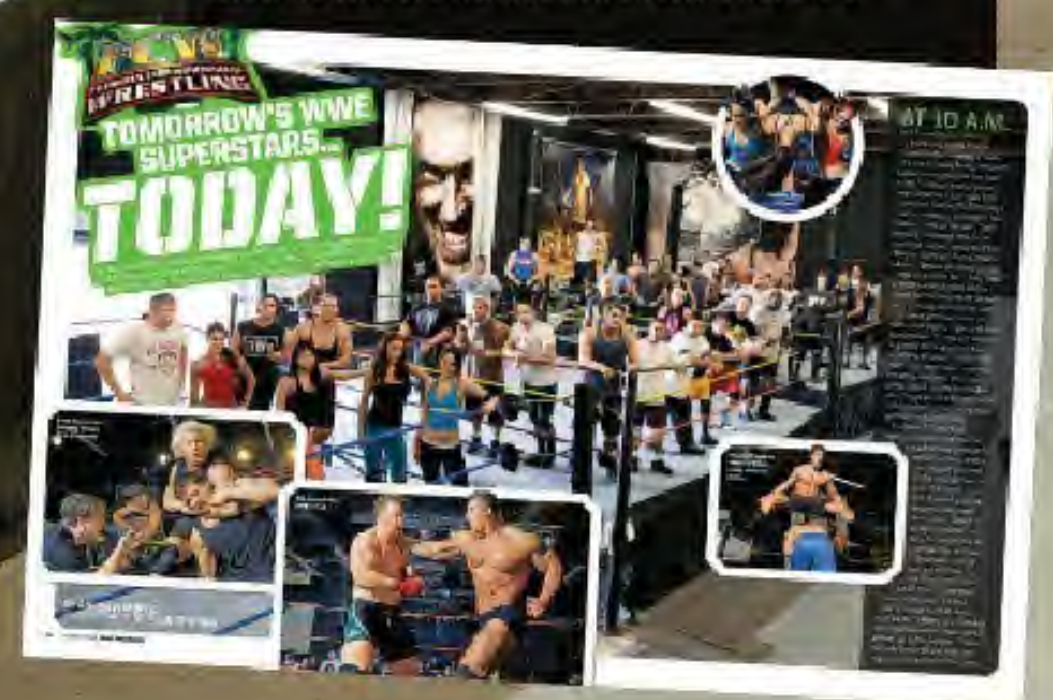
ROSA MENDES
Raw, 11/24/08
Manager of
WWE Tag Team Champions
Promo & Epic

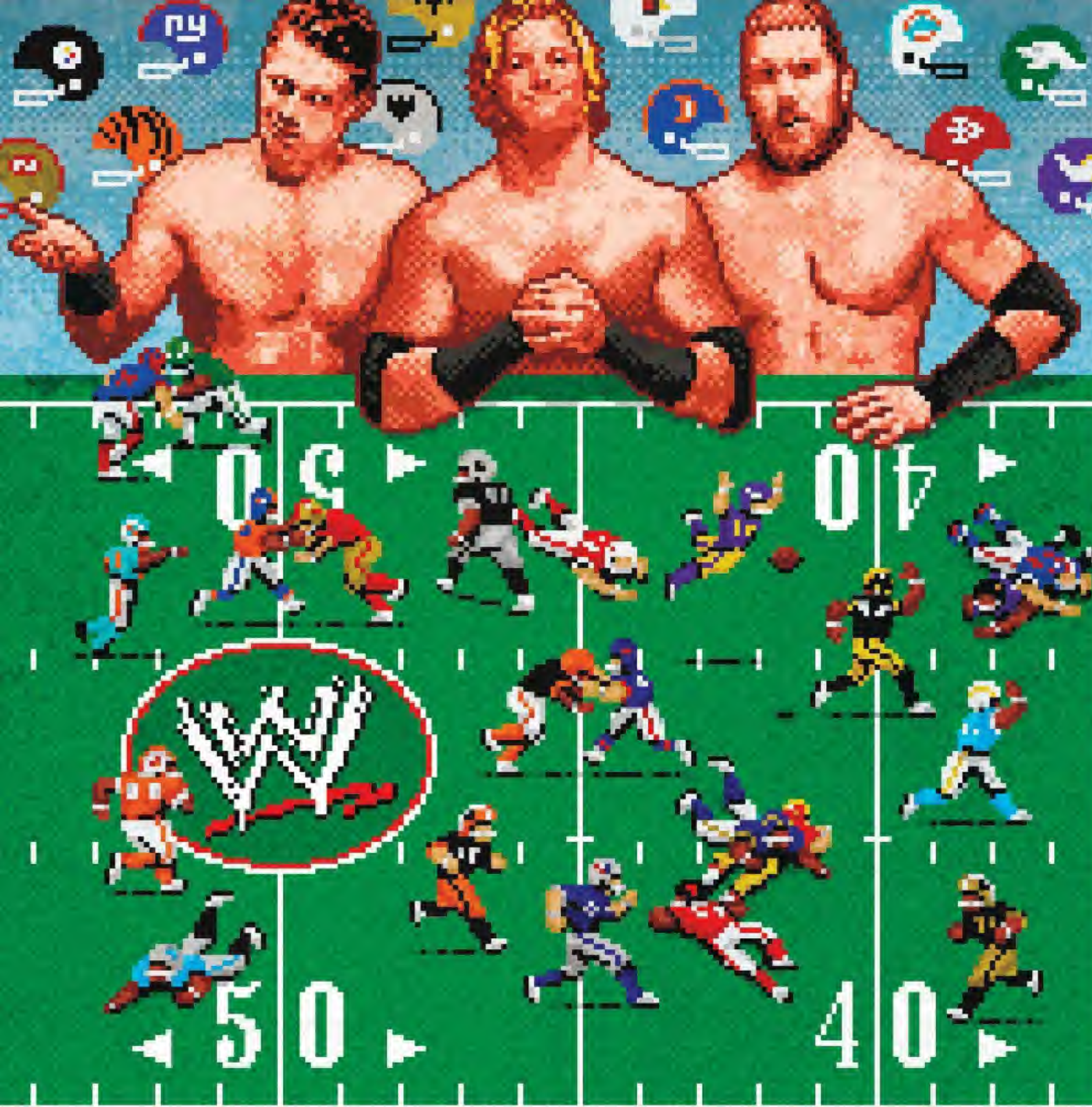
SAVANNAH
ECW, 9/15/09

NIKKI BELLA
SmackDown, 10/3/08
Divas Champion,
Star of Total Divas on E!

JACK SWAGGER
WWE Debut: ECW, 9/9/08
World Heavyweight Champion,
United States Champion,
ECW Champion, MITB Winner,
Real American

Behold, the original story printed in our October 2008 issue. We can't even tell you how sweaty it was there.





THE **WWE** SUPERSTAR FANTASY FOOTBALL LEAGUE



**HIT START
FOR THE 2013 SEASON**

Three seasons strong, three different winners of the Vince McMahon Trophy! Will a new Superstar or Diva take the title this year, or will Miz, Zack Ryder and Curtis Axel dominate again? Plus: Save your season! Expert advice on what to do after your fantasy draft.

PRESENTED BY **WWE MAGAZINE** & **CRSSPORTS.COM** ILLUSTRATION BY **JUDE BUFFUM**



THE L.I. BROSKIS
OWNER Zack Ryder

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
7 QB	Drew Brees, Saints		BENCH	24 QB	Russell Wilson, Seahawks	
14 RB	Steven Jackson, Falcons			37 QB	Josh Freeman, Buccaneers	
27 RB	Maurice Jones-Drew, Jaguars			47 RB	Darren Sproles, Saints	
54 WR	Danny Amendola, Patriots			54 WR	T.Y. Hilton, Colts	
67 WR	Torrey Smith, Ravens			154 WR	Justin Blackmon, Jaguars	
34 TE	Rob Gronkowski, Patriots			107 TE	Kyle Rudolph, Vikings	
114 D	Pittsburgh Steelers					
127 K	Blair Walsh, Vikings					

Season In The League: 3rd
STRENGTHS: Dominant QB; lots of potential trade-bait.
WEAKNESSES: A lack of focus on the receiving corps leaves much to be desired.
PLAYOFFS? Only if Brees can put the team on his back.



THE BOOM SQUAD
OWNER Kofi Kingston

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
58 QB	Matt Ryan, Falcons		BENCH	98 QB	Ben Roethlisberger, Steelers	
3 RB	Trent Richardson, Browns			63 RB	Montee Ball, Broncos	
18 RB	Frank Gore, 49ers			78 RB	Andre Brown, Giants	
23 WR	A.J. Green, Bengals			83 WR	James Jones, Packers	
38 WR	Reggie Wayne, Colts			118 WR	Chris Givens, Rams	
43 TE	Jason Witten, Cowboys			123 TE	Martellus Bennett, Bears	
138 D	Buffalo Bills					
103 K	Stephen Gostkowski, Patriots					

Season In The League: 4th
STRENGTHS: Solid running and passing game.
WEAKNESSES: An aging Gore and Wayne.
PLAYOFFS? Maybe if the Browns put Richardson in scoring position, and Gore remains a Red Zone threat.



TEAM PRIME TIME
OWNERS Darren Young & Titus O'Neil

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
75 QB	Andrew Luck, Colts		BENCH	95 QB	Andy Dalton, Bengals	
35 RB	David Wilson, Giants			106 QB	Jay Cutler, Bears	
46 RB	Eddie Lacy, Packers			66 RB	BenJarvus Green-Ellis, Bengals	
6 WR	Calvin Johnson, Lions			115 RB	Mark Ingram Jr., Saints	
15 WR	Demaryius Thomas, Broncos			55 WR	Jordy Nelson, Packers	
26 TE	Jimmy Graham, Saints			86 WR	Steve Johnson, Bills	
126 D	New York Giants					
135 K	Justin Tucker, Ravens					

Season In The League: 1st
STRENGTHS: Deep all receiver and quarterback.
WEAKNESSES: Running game leaves a lot to be desired.
PLAYOFFS? This expansion squad has a ways to go before making it to the top four in the league.



BARRETT BARRAGE
OWNER Wade Barrett

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
36 QB	Cam Newton, Panthers		BENCH	96 QB	Joe Flacco, Ravens	
5 RB	Marshawn Lynch, Seahawks			65 RB	Giovanni Bernard, Bengals	
16 RB	Chris Johnson, Titans			129 RB	Joseph Randle, Cowboys	
25 WR	Victor Cruz, Giants			85 WR	Tavon Austin, Rams	
45 WR	Pierre Garçon, Redskins			136 WR	Mohamed Sanu, Bengals	
56 TE	Antonio Gates, Chargers			116 TE	Brandon Myers, Giants	
76 D	Cincinnati Bengals					
105 K	Phil Dawson, 49ers					

Season In The League: 1st
STRENGTHS: Starting backs have potential to be beasts!
WEAKNESSES: Can Cam carry this crew? Also, realizing this is American football, not soccer (oddling!).
PLAYOFFS? Stranger stuff's happened in this league.



TEAM TENSAI
OWNER Tensai

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
39 QB	Matthew Stafford, Lions		BENCH	62 RB	Le'Veon Bell, Steelers	
2 RB	Arian Foster, Texans			79 RB	Shanie Vereen, Patriots	
19 RB	Stevan Ridley, Patriots			102 RB	DeAngelo Williams, Panthers	
42 WR	Dwayne Bowe, Chiefs			59 WR	Steve Smith, Panthers	
22 WR	Dez Bryant, Cowboys			122 WR	Kenny Britt, Titans	
82 TE	Greg Olsen, Panthers			119 TE	Jermichael Finley, Packers	
99 D	Denver Broncos					
139 K	David Akers, Lions					

Season In The League: 1st
STRENGTHS: Foster and Bryant will rack up points.
WEAKNESSES: Stafford's modest 2012 low completion percentage makes him a risky QB with no backup.
PLAYOFFS? Tough, the point system doesn't favor WRs.



5 POST-DRAFT TIPS FOR SAVING YOUR SEASON

You're not going to win your Fantasy League based on your draft alone! *CBSSports.com* Senior Fantasy Writer Nathan Zegura has your season-long game plan for gridiron success.

1. Don't Neglect Your Team
"The worst thing that you can do as an owner is to neglect your team. Just because your draft is done doesn't mean your work is done. Not even close. If you want to win, you need to be active in managing your team, more than just on Sunday."

2. Stay Active On The Waiver Wire
"This is perhaps the most important thing to do as an owner. There are going to be injuries and there are going to be busts, but there is also always going to be talent that emerges during the season. If you're on top of your game watching the waiver wire, you could be the owner that snags a stud who carries your team. So make sure you're that owner who's scouring the pool for that next big star on Tuesday morning, or fear being left in the dust."

3. Monitor Your Matchups
"As soon as your draft ends, you should see which weeks your players are going to have favorable matchups, and which weeks your regular starters might not be the best option. Knowing matchups in advance can allow you to pick up somebody that might not help you for an entire year, but will be the perfect player to plug in during the week your team needs help the most."

4. Don't Be Afraid To Part With Busted Draft Picks
"What happens when one of your top picks is struggling? Don't be too quick to pull the trigger—your top draft picks are the ones that lead a team, but after four or five weeks, a bad player is a bad player. It doesn't matter if you drafted Chris Johnson in the first round last year, eventually he was not producing enough to warrant a roster spot. The best thing you can do is part ways with a nonperformer, be it your first pick or your last."

5. Trade From Strength To Fix A Weakness
"A lot of times owners find themselves with an embarrassment of riches in one position, but a gaping hole in another. If this is the case, use your overabundance to try for a trade!"

FOLLOW US ALL SEASON LONG!

For all the WWE Superstar Fantasy Football league action, go to cbsports.com/fantasy and follow @WWEMagazine on Twitter for scores, league updates and plenty of promo-worthy talk during the gridiron season!



TEAM SIVA TAU
OWNERS The Usos

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
10 QB	Aaron Rodgers, Packers		BENCH	110 QB	Matt Schaub, Texans	
11 RB	Ray Rice, Ravens			71 RB	Ryan Mathews, Chargers	
30 RB	Reggie Bush, Lions			81 RB	Ben Tate, Texans	
31 WR	Andre Johnson, Texans			90 WR	Mike Williams, Buccaneers	
50 WR	Eric Decker, Broncos			151 WR	Lance Moore, Saints	
51 TE	Vernon Davis, 49ers			150 TE	Fred Davis, Redskins	
70 D	San Francisco 49ers					
111 K	Matt Bryant, Falcons					

Season In The League: 4th
STRENGTHS: Deep running game! Bush was a steal.
WEAKNESSES: Bench is unlikely to have any breakout sleepers.
PLAYOFFS? They'll splash into the postseason.



TEAM BETTER THAN PERFECT
OWNER Curtis Axel

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
17 QB	Peyton Manning, Broncos		BENCH	57 RB	Lamar Miller, Dolphins	
4 RB	Jamaal Charles, Chiefs			77 RB	Chris Ivory, Jets	
24 RB	Matt Forte, Bears			84 RB	Alvin Brashaw, Colts	
37 WR	Vincent Jackson, Buccaneers			97 RB	Daryl Richardson, Packers	
44 WR	Marques Colston, Saints			64 WR	Cecil Shorts, Jaguars	
117 TE	Tyler Ebert, Bengals			104 WR	Michael Floyd, Cardinals	
124 D	New England Patriots					
137 K	Robbie Gould, Bears					


Season In The League: 3rd
STRENGTHS: Depth and then some at the running back position; sleeper pick in Lamar Miller.
WEAKNESSES: Bench, and no back up QB...yet.
PLAYOFFS? A master of the waiver wire. Count him in.



TEAM AWESOME
OWNER The Miz

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
72 QB	Tony Romo, Cowboys		BENCH	49 RB	Darren McFadden, Raiders	
9 RB	C.J. Spiller, Bills			89 RB	Bryce Brown, Eagles	
12 RB	LeSean McCoy, Eagles			149 RB	Bernard Pierce, Ravens	
29 WR	Larry Fitzgerald, Cardinals			69 WR	Mike Wallace, Dolphins	
32 WR	Randall Cobb, Packers			92 WR	Antonio Brown, Steelers	
52 TE	Tony Gonzalez, Falcons			109 WR	Josh Gordon, Browns	
112 D	Houston Texans					
152 K	Greg Zuerlein, Rams					

Season In The League: 1st
STRENGTHS: Running game will be among the best in the league.
WEAKNESSES: Passing game, however, will not.
PLAYOFFS? Only if Romo keeps his wits about him.



THE SAUCIERS OF SWAG
OWNER Jack Swagger

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
48 QB	Robert Griffin III, Redskins		BENCH	68 QB	Colt Kaepernick, 49ers	
8 RB	Doug Martin, Buccaneers			93 RB	Rashard Mendenhall, Cardinals	
13 RB	Alfred Morris, Eagles			128 RB	LaMichael James, 49ers	
28 WR	Julio Jones, Falcons			88 WR	Mike Wallace, Dolphins	
33 WR	Roddy White, Falcons			108 WR	Greg Jennings, Vikings	
73 TE	Owen Daniels, Texans			113 WR	Miles Austin, Cowboys	
53 D	Seattle Seahawks					
153 K	Sebastian Janikowski, Raiders					

Season In The League: 4th
STRENGTHS: Plenty of successful sleepers from 2012.
WEAKNESSES: Byes will present trouble for starting RBs and WRs who share weeks.
PLAYOFFS? This team sneaks in under the radar!



TWIN MAGIC
OWNERS The Bellas

DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER		DRAFT#	POSITION	PLAYER
20 QB	Tom Brady, Patriots		BENCH	81 QB	Eli Manning, Giants	
1 RB	Adrian Peterson, Vikings			140 RB	Vick Ballard, Colts	
41 RB	DeMarco Murray, Cowboys			100 RB	Ronnie Hillman, Broncos	
21 WR	Brandon Marshall, Bears			120 RB	Fred Jackson, Bills	
40 WR	Wes Welker, Broncos			60 WR	DeSean Jackson, Eagles	
80 TE	Jared Cook, Rams			101 WR	Anquan Boldin, 49ers	
61 D	Chicago Bears					
121 K	Matt Prater, Broncos					

Season In The League: 3rd
STRENGTHS: The one-two punch of AP and Brady.
WEAKNESSES: Concern with Rice splitting carries, and Welker jelling with new QB Manning.
PLAYOFFS? As guaranteed as The Bellas are hot.

INSIDER

THE CLOSEST YOU'LL GET TO THE RING WITHOUT BEING BETWEEN THE ROPES

BY JEFF LABOON
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICH FREEDA

Match Of The Year Nominee

Christian Finally Earns "One More Match"



This Triple Threat

Match for the right to face Alberto Del Rio for the WHC was a pay-per-view-worthy affair. With Randy Orton, Christian and Rob Van Dam each fighting for the top challenger spot, it was here Captain Charisma seized his chance to return to the main-event scene. When Orton hit an RKO on RVD, Christian surprised The Viper with a pin, securing a SummerSlam bout against the champ. **SmackDown, 8/2**

JACK SWAGGER
5 REASONS WHY HE IS A TRUE AMERICAN

1

"I drink Bud Heavy tallboys."

2

"I wear American Flag Bikini Briefs. Salute!"

3

"I always vote—even when I'm abroad I do absentee ballots!"

4

"My tax returns are always filed early."

5

"I headbutt bald eagles on a regular basis. ... Kidding, kidding."

WWE Extreme
Hot Potato.

Destruction Of The Year Nominee

Rivalry Reignited In Tables Match

It's become apparent that the first lesson to learn from Ryback Rules is to beware of the table. A week after The Human Wrecking Ball took a DQ loss for powerbombing Daniel Bryan through a table, he and John Cena tore apart the ringside area in a Tables Match, which saw the Superstars throw steel steps at one another. With Cena down, Ryback aimed to clothesline The Champ through a table, but Cena ducked, and launched him through the wood with an Attitude Adjustment—reminding his opponent just who exactly rules. **Raw, 7/29**



Ethi, Walrus.

Backstabber Of The Year Nominee

Spurned Heyman Costs Punk Money

Paul Heyman assured CM Punk he held no hard feelings after Punk asked that they go their separate ways. Heyman left no doubt at *Money In The Bank*, though, launching a ladder at Punk when he was mere inches from securing a contract for a WWE Championship Match. **MITB, 7/14**



"Spontaneous combustion—little particles of Daniel Bryan and John Cena float through the air, never to be seen or heard from again!"

MR. McMAHON, musing aloud on his ideal ending to this year's SummerSlam; **Raw, 7/29/13**



THE BELLAS

WHICH SISTER
DOES IT BEST?

1

Loves Roller Coasters
NIKKI

2

Superhero Movies
BRIE

3

Keeping A Secret
BOTH

4

Adept At Technology
NIKKI

5

Like Their Photos
BRIE

Duck Tale Of The Year Nominee

The Bellas Make Life Like A Hurricane For Natalya

Total Divas
In every sense.

The Bellas sucked all the fun from the premiere of *Total Divas* for Natalya, calling her the 'ugly duckling' of the show. Natalya showed no mercy upon Brie in their match later in the night, but Nikki helped her sister steal the win by distracting the 'Queen of Hearts' with duck sounds—a move Daffy Duck would probably call 'deth-picable.' **Raw, 7/29**

Makeover Of The Year Nominee

Daniel Bryan Refuses
To Turn Corporate

Daniel Bryan's performance in the ring wasn't enough for Mr. McMahon, who doesn't think a 5'8" bearded vegan can be the face of WWE. But with Stephanie McMahon's assistance, the "Goat" underwent a makeover—eating steak, getting fitted for a suit and combing his hair. When The Chairman tried to have Wade Barrett shave Bryan's beard, though, the No. 1 Contender said "No!" staying true to what endeared him to the WWE Universe all along. **Raw, 8/5**



Haunting Of The Year Nominee

The Wyatts Continue To Terrorize A Demon



Team Hell No may have ended amicably, but the competitive spirits of Kane and Daniel Bryan came out in full force when Mr. McMahon insisted the former teammates square off. Instead of hugging it out, their familiarity with each other's styles made for an entertaining bout, which Bryan won by reversing a Chokeslam into a roll-up. But after the submission specialist exited the ring, The Wyatt Family surrounded Kane and pounced on him with a three-on-one assault, announcing to all that they are the new terror in WWE. *Raw*, 7/29



Play with fire and you just might get burned.



THE BELLAS
WHICH SISTER DOES IT BEST?

6
Reading
BRIE

7
Walking In Heels
NIKKI

8
Giving A Backrub
BOTH

9
Being Starstruck
NEITHER

10
Talking To Men
BOTH

Breakup Of The Year Nominee

Heartbreak For AJ Lee,
Freedom For Dolph Ziggler

AJ's concern for her boyfriend Dolph Ziggler cost him the World Heavyweight Championship at *Money In The Bank* when she interrupted his bout against Alberto Del Rio and got her "Ziggy" disqualified. In the Barclays Center, the same arena where AJ and Ziggler became a couple in the first place, The Show Off said it was time to "move on." But AJ showed that hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, as she sicced Big E Langston on her former sweetheart. *Raw*, 7/15



"I thought this was a girl who was a joker."



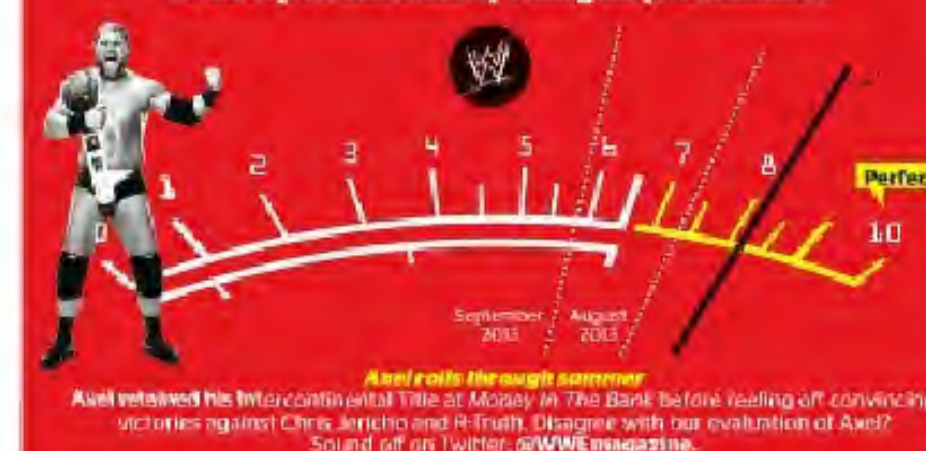
"Stop apologizing about what happened last night. It's time to move on. You don't understand—it's time for me to move on...from you. We're done."

DOLPH ZIGGLER, breaking AJ's heart after *Money In The Bank*; *Raw*, 7/15/13



Axel Meter Of Perfection

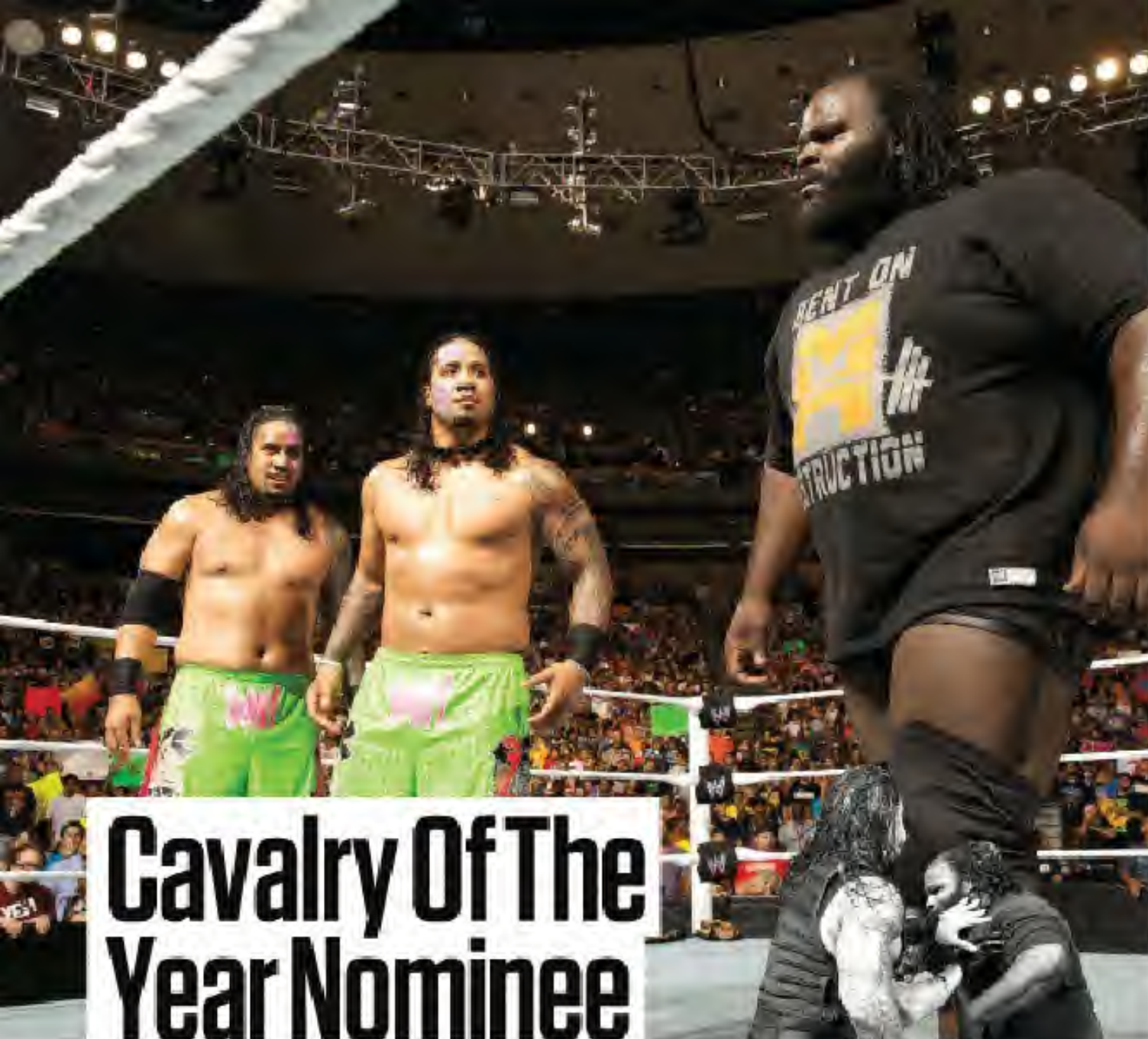
We document "Paul Heyman Guy" Curtis Axel's rise to the top each month by rating his performance.



Stat Slam

Year Ignacy Lukasiwicz invented the kerosene lamp, a trademark part of Bray Wyatt's creepy entrance, which includes him lighting and blowing out a lamp to make it easier to "follow the buzzards."

1853



Cavalry Of The Year Nominee

The Usos Help Mark Henry Against The Shield

Mark Henry fought valiantly in his title bout against John Cena at *Money In The Bank*, but the next night a new enemy surfaced: The Shield. When Raw returned to Henry's native Texas, The World's Strongest Man wasted no time calling out "The Hounds of Justice" in the Lone Star State. Henry held his own, but he got some support from The Usos, who helped squish The Shield and send the trio retreating to their doghouse. **Raw, 7/22**

Mark Henry is his own numbers game.

Warrior Of The Year Nominee

Weakened Sheamus Fights Through Pain, Dishes More Out

Fear the Celtic comeback.



His leg still reeling from the Money In The Bank All-Stars Match, Sheamus faced former World Champion Jack Swagger, who targeted the sore limb for his Patriot Lock. Sheamus proved why he's The Celtic Warrior, however, fighting out of the hold and hitting a risky Brogue Kick to emerge victorious in the end. Without a leg to stand on, Sheamus showed he'll go to any lengths to win. **WWE Main Event, 7/24**

THE BELLAS

WHICH SISTER DOES IT BEST?

11
Playing Sports
NIKKI

12
Singing
NEITHER

13
Returning Calls
BRIE

14
Telling Stories
NIKKI

15
Driving
NEITHER

WWE FAN ART OF THE MONTH CONTEST FOR October '13. NO PAYMENT OR ENTRY FEE REQUIRED. Void where prohibited. Open only to legal residents of the 50 United States (and D.C.), 18 and older. Online entries must be received between 12:01 am (ET) on 09/17/13 and 11:59 pm (ET) on 10/14/13 (the "Contest Period"). Go to WWW.WWE.COM/MAGAZINE/ and create a user profile, then submit your entry by uploading artwork depicting WWE Superstars (the "Submission"). Submissions must be two dimensional (flat) and online entries must be in .jpg, .pdf, or .tif format and at least 300 dpi. To enter by mail, send your Submission, along with your name and other information required in the Official Rules, to: WWE Fan Art of the Month Contest for October '13, Publications, WWE, 1241 East Main St., Stamford, CT 06902. Mail-in entries must

be postmarked during the Contest Period and received by WWE no later than 10/21/13. Limit 1 entry per person regardless of entry method. You must own all rights to your Submission, assign all such rights to WWE and acknowledge such assignment at time of entry. Entries will not be returned. You will not be paid for your Submission. Grand Prize: One (1) WWE Payback DVD. Approximate retail value ("ARV") of Grand Prize: \$30 USD Contest subject to complete Official Rules available at WWW.WWE.COM and by sending a SASE (TV residents may omit return postage) to: WWE Fan Art of the Month Contest for October '13 Rules Request, WWE, 1241 East Main St., Stamford, CT 06902. Sponsor: WWE, 1241 East Main Street, Stamford, CT 06902. © WWE. All rights reserved.

CHUCK JAMRIS/SHUTTER, ERIC JOHNSON/SHUTTER, SCOTT BRIDGES/SHUTTER, DAVID GILLES/SHUTTER, CHAD MEYER/SHUTTER

DON'T BE A BULLY. be a STAR.

"To become a Rugby World Cup Champion required a strong body. To remove bullying from schools and sports, requires all of us to have strong character."

Ben Cohen

Ben Cohen, MBE,
Rugby World Cup Champion
and Founder & Chairman of the
Ben Cohen StandUp Foundation
@StandUpFdn

B.A★
be a STAR

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THE RETURN OF THE WILD CAT



A pair of elbow surgeries sidelined **Kofi Kingston** for the first time in his six-year WWE career. Here, the recently recovered Spring Loaded Superstar reflects on the risks he'll no longer take, what he still needs to learn, and why those injuries were a blessing in disguise.

You faced a tough situation this summer, having to undergo elbow surgery and stay on the sidelines for the first time in your career. How did you keep from going off the deep end while recovering?

I got a little stir crazy, but at the same time, I just had a son and it was great to actually spend some quality and quantity time with him. Normally I wouldn't get to do that. I feel like everything happens for a reason. I had the double elbow surgery to remove bone chips out of my elbows. It wasn't qualified as a major surgery, but I haven't been out in six years. For me to get this injury, the timing was impeccable because I could spend some time with my son. I was champing at the bit to get back in the flow of things, though.

How did that extended time away from the ring affect you mentally?

It was actually really humbling. There was one point when I was barely able to do anything by myself. It was very hard to hold my son. Working out? Forget it. I couldn't do any type of pushing or pulling. That was very weird. I was more anxious about that because I probably haven't taken more than six days off in the past 20 years. To be forced to sit and recover is a really humbling experience.

After six years in the WWE Universe, it's easy to feel like we know you very well. But what is the most important piece of info about Kofi Kingston?

ton that the WWE Universe has yet to learn?

It's important to stay positive—the WWE Universe knows that about me. Having said that, I'm just like any other person. I get frustrated, but I might not let it show on the outside because I'm always smiling. I get just as mad and frustrated as the next person, though. It all depends on how you deal with it. As happy-go-lucky as I appear to be, life situations are not always as happy-go-lucky. It's just a matter of how you choose to react to a situation. That affects your well-being and your outlook on life.

So what's the one thing that you have tried to improve upon from your debut in 2007?

When I was younger, I would take a lot more risks and be a little bit more reckless with my body. Obviously, the older you get, the more you realize you can't quite do all the things you used to do if you want to be around for a long time. Knowing when to take risks comes with experience, so I still do a lot of death-defying things, but I do it when the odds are in my favor as opposed to doing them with reckless abandon and hoping for the best.

Being a highflier certainly qualifies you as a risk-taker. But what's the biggest risk you've ever taken in your career?

To be honest, dropping the Jamaican accent in the beginning of my WWE career. It was working for me, and it was something different that had never been done before. I could have very easily stayed on that path and kind of done what worked and kept on going for as long as I could. While it was entertaining, it wasn't 100-percent real. Now I'm able to just

be myself out there, which comes across as more genuine. That helps me in the long run because if people see you out there and they see something that's real, they're able to believe in it a lot and you a lot more. It's like a game of blackjack. If you bet \$1, you can only gain \$1, but if you bet \$100, you can double that and it's \$200. You've got to bet it to get it and you can't be afraid to gamble with what you have to get what you want.

With plenty of WWE accomplishments on your résumé, what's the harshest critique you have for yourself?

I'm very critical of in-ring movement. You have to go all out, but you have to be in control of your body and your emotions. The more poised you are, then the more successful you'll be. That's not just in the ring, that's outside it, too, because everyone's trying to claw their way to the top. It doesn't help your cause to flip out and be uncontrolled. You almost have to find that inner Zen and take things in stride. The more poised you have, the better able you are to deal with all kinds of situations.

Finally, what does Kofi Kingston have to do to make that next step in WWE?

To make the next step takes a different kind of focus. I'm a 10-time champion in WWE and I'm very grateful for that, but at the same time, I'm still hungry and I'm still not satisfied. I don't know exactly what it is that I need to do, but I will find out because I don't feel like anybody should really be satisfied. No matter how good you get, you can always get better. So what I'm trying to do is get better.

Kingston's Jaw-Dropping Top 12

We rank the finest moments in Kofi Kingston's high-energy career.



1. Performs a handstand at 2012's Royal Rumble; January 29, 2012

"I was very nervous about that because I hadn't done a handstand in about 10 to 15 years."

2. Defaces Randy Orton's NASCAR; October 26, 2009

"A NASCAR doesn't have any windows or rearview mirrors, so I had to get very creative in destroying it. I was able to get the point across."

3. Boom Drops Randy Orton through a table at Madison Square Garden; November 16, 2009

"When Randy and I were first brawling through the crowd, they were booing me. But by the end of that sequence, they were cheering."

4. Boom Drops Drew McIntyre from a ladder at 2010's Money in The Bank; July 18, 2010

"I actually stood there and contemplated not jumping, but then I looked around and thought, why not?"

5. Uses two parts of a ladder as stilts at WrestleMania XXVI; March 28, 2010

"I pride myself on being innovative. When I saw those pieces of a ladder, I tried channeling my inner MacGyver."

6. Executes Trouble In Paradise on The Miz; October 15, 2012

"My foot still hurts a little bit. I think I have a stress fracture. When I connected with Miz, I knew I definitely almost knocked his block off."

7. Uses an announcer's chair as a pogo stick at 2013's Royal Rumble; January 27, 2013

"It always feels good to surprise the people and go in a direction they don't expect."

8. Runs up a ladder—held by Mark Henry—at The 25th Anniversary of WrestleMania; April 5, 2009

"It was just a good place to set the bar for what I was capable of as a young Superstar."

9. Wins his first Intercontinental Championship at 2008's Night of Champions; June 29, 2008

"I had never been a champion in anything before—not in the independents or developmental."

10. Boom Drops Sheamus at Extreme Rules; May 1, 2011

"That was awesome because my family and my wife were actually out in the crowd in Tampa."

11. Eliminates CM Punk & Randy Orton in seconds at 2009's Survivor Series; November 22, 2009

"It was really just a great moment because I know how good both of those guys are and I pinned them both in less than six seconds."

12. Battles in his first Hardcore Match against Shelton Benjamin on ECW; June 24, 2008

"To go up against somebody so athletic actually let me showcase my own athleticism right off the bat."

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BEFORE THE BELL

What's on the minds of the Superstars and Divas during those private moments as they prepare for in-ring combat?

THIS MONTH

**CURTIS AXEL
WITH
PAUL HEYMAN**

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CRAIG AMBROSIO

"To be honest with you, I'm kind of superstitious. I'll always do the same exact thing when I prepare for a bout and get my gear on. For instance, I'll put my left boot on first, which is kind of weird. I'm a switch-hitter in baseball, but I usually bat left-handed. I shoot left-handed when I play hockey. I've actually been able to hit a golf ball left-handed, too. Even when I tape my wrists, I go from left to right. Before my matches, I'll do

a certain amount of push-ups. I'll stretch out my legs and jump in the air to keep myself pumped up. One thing I do before every match is pray—and I pray to my dad. I talk to him. That's one thing I've always done before every one of my matches. I also carry a spray bottle with me that I use to cool me off a bit. Paul Heyman knows how to fire me up. I'll meet him up in Gorilla after I do my routine. He'll just say a little, but he'll fire me up before I go to the

ring. Go out there and own it," he'll say. With my recent match against CM Punk, he was telling me just that, getting in my ear and instructing me to go out there and whoop some ass. He seems like a loudmouth guy when you see him on television, but one-on-one, there's no screaming or yelling. He's more private. What Paul does is great. I've had other coaches who have done the same thing. That usually does the trick."

+
CURTIS AXEL

5 THINGS
HE DOES
PERFECTLY



"Wrestle."



"Win."



"Fish."



"Any other sport you
can think of..."



"Smile."

PHOTOGRAPH BY CRAIG AMBROSIO

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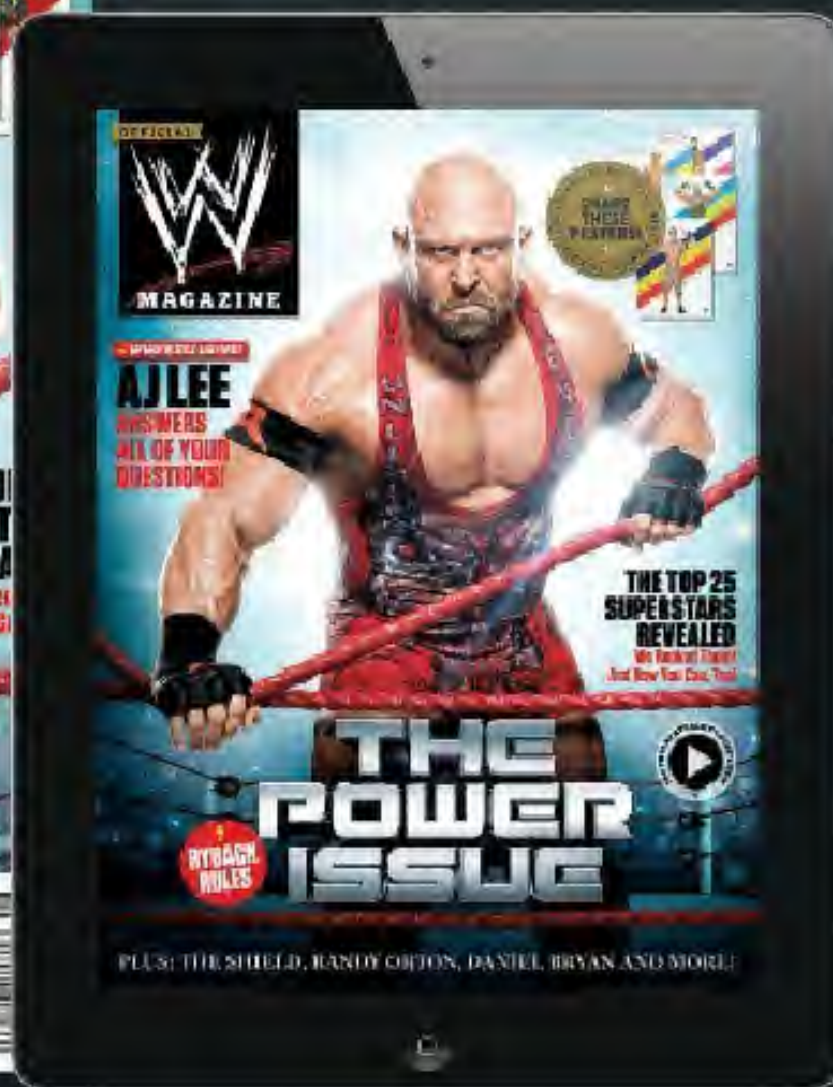
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